

After long delay, general promoted  
Commander at base where Barry Winchell  
was murdered set to receive three stars.  
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Down to the wire  
Candidates for district  
attorney make their case.  
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Spirit of independents  
Local filmmakers in shorts,  
features in Film Arts Fest.  
see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 44 • 30 October 2003

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

## Time for Halloween

Get your costumes out. Friday is Halloween and the party's in the Castro from 7 p.m. to midnight. These guys got an early start on the festivities at HellBall, held October 25. City officials remind those planning to attend the Castro party that there will be "no booze, no bashing, and no bad costumes" at the event. For more information, visit [www.halloweensf.com](http://www.halloweensf.com).



Marc Celler

## Supe Daly proposes, rescinds changes to EBO

by Zak Szymanski



Supervisor Chris Daly

San Francisco's landmark equal benefits ordinance of 1996 – which requires all companies contracted with the city to provide domestic partner health benefits equal to those provided to married spouses – was specifically constructed so that the Human Rights Commission would oversee compliance for all city departments.

EBO co-authors Geoff Kors, Jeff Sheehy, and Carol Stuart knew that, unlike the city's HRC, no single city department has the infrastructure necessary to ensure compliance with the law. HRC takes proactive and cooperative steps to help contractors from all over the country find insurance providers to cover domestic partners of employees. Departments eager to get their contracted projects off the

ground would likely not be as thorough or effective, EBO advocates said.

The EBO advocates also knew that many corporations – including nonprofits like the Salvation Army – would try to claim exemption from the law, and that giving individual departments the power to grant waivers to these companies would weaken the EBO's effectiveness.

So it was surprising and angering to EBO advocates and LGBT officials when Supervisor Chris Daly's recent proposed charter amendment came before the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee Monday, October 27 without any input from the community; the amendment, meant to streamline and autono-

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## Mayoral candidates share views at LGBT center forum

by Cynthia Laird

As the race for San Francisco mayor entered its final week, eight of the nine candidates shared their positions on a variety of issues of importance to gay voters at a forum Sunday, October 26 at the LGBT Community Center.

The Rainbow Room was packed as the three-hour forum started, and Executive Director Thom Lynch had to quiet about a half-dozen protesters in the audience when Supervisor Gavin Newsom stepped up on the stage. Several Gay Shame members were escorted out by audience members when they refused to stop shouting outbursts at Newsom, widely regarded as the front-runner in the race to succeed term-



Candidates Susan Leal and Gavin Newsom at Sunday's forum.

Cash initiative on last year's ballot and his overall position of replacing cash with services for some of the homeless in the city.

Newsom took the catcalls in stride, telling the audience that, "These guys have been following me around for six months."

Gay candidates Tom Ammiano and Susan

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## Police warn speed use is skyrocketing

by Matthew S. Bajko

Six months after city officials held a public forum on speed use among gay men, the city's crystal methamphetamine epidemic continues to spiral out of control. According to police officials, the problems are mirroring the same crisis the city saw with crack cocaine during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"Just in the past year I have seen an increase in the reports coming across my desk, with 40 to 50 percent more cases in methamphetamine than we had with crack. We are now 50-50 with meth," said Captain Tim Hettrick, head of the San Francisco Police Department's narcotics division. "Crystal meth is the next crack cocaine epidemic in the United States. Studies now show that meth overdoses are the third largest overdoses coming into the city's hospitals."

According to a recent study from Los Angeles, 100 percent of individuals newly testing positive for HIV, as well as a sexually transmitted disease, were using crystal. Here in San Francisco, City Clinic has reported that one-third of the gay men with STDs reported meth use.

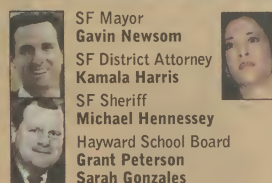
While public health officials and gay elected leaders have focused on the gay community's use of speed – nicknamed Tina – police warn the drug is just as prevalent among heterosexuals.

"This is not just the gay community. It is everywhere," said Hettrick.

Along with focusing on the Mission, Bayview, Tenderloin, and Hunter's Point neighborhoods, the police have also been

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## B.A.R. endorsements



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOV. 4

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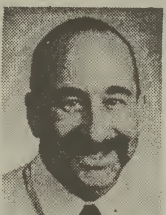
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## Gay travel promoter blasts visitors bureau

by Ed Walsh

The 11th annual International Gay & Lesbian World Travel Expo in San Francisco last week was met with a packed house and a reminder for business leaders that the city is severely neglecting its gay travel cash cow.

Gay and lesbian travel enthusiasts and window shoppers packed a Hyatt Regency exhibition hall last Thursday, October 23, for the annual gay travel road show. More than 100 exhibitors and representatives from over 40 destinations made up the expo that will travel to six other cities over the next seven months.

The expo is the brainchild of gay travel promoter Tom Roth of the San Francisco-based Community Marketing Inc. He told the *Bay Area Reporter* that although he is very pleased with the tremendous success of the expo, it is also another reminder of how little San Francisco does to promote gay tourism. Roth said that the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau has, until now, declined to participate in his expo, which Roth began in San Francisco over a decade ago. A CVB spokeswoman said that although the bureau won't participate in all six cities, it has decided that it will join the expo in the New York and Los Angeles stops.

"It's an embarrassment for San



The scene at last week's 11th annual International Gay & Lesbian World Travel Expo in San Francisco.

Francisco," said Roth. "We should be the leader, not a weak follower."

"All these other destinations have left [San Francisco] in the dust," Roth added. "It's crazy. Minneapolis is doing more than San Francisco."

Roth's opinion is echoed by other LGBT business leaders who have blasted CVB for taking the lucrative gay market for granted. CVB gets about half of its \$15.2 million budget from San Francisco's hotel tax fund. Just this year, for the first time, CVB launched a gay travel link on its Web site and it has promised to help distribute new San Francisco gay travel promotional literature. But critics have called CVB's efforts too little, too late.

Jim Cherry, vice president of the Golden Gate Business Association, told the *B.A.R.* that CVB was "forced into" helping to distribute gay travel information after being pressured by San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Dufty, GGBA, and other LGBT leaders.

"If we didn't take it on, they wouldn't have done anything," said Cherry, referring to GGBA's travel

initiative program, which soon expects to produce the gay travel promotional literature that CVB has promised to help distribute.

Deborah Reinow, a CVB vice president, told the *B.A.R.* that the bureau recognizes the importance of the gay tourist market but it's an issue of allocating limited resources. Reinow said that contrary to Cherry's criticism, CVB wasn't forced into supporting promoting gay tourism and has supported the gay market for years.

"There isn't any market segment that would say that we're spending enough on them," Reinow said.

Montreal's promotion of gay tourism is in sharp contrast with San Francisco. Sometimes referred to as the "San Francisco of Canada" because of its large gay population, it was one of the cities represented at the expo. A spokesman for Tourism Montreal, CVB's counterpart, said that it spends \$275,000 annually on promotional campaigns targeted toward gay tourism. That includes the sponsorship of floats in Pride parades

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# Next mayor will face tough choices over AIDS

by Matthew S. Bajko

In his last state of the city address as mayor, Willie Brown said on Tuesday, October 28 that the power once waged by San Francisco is diminishing.

"I am telling you that San Francisco is going to be challenged," Brown said. "We no longer have the clout that we had in the past."

The mayor's comment probably best describes what his replacement will find when it comes to tackling HIV and AIDS issues next year. Every indication points to a disastrous situation for the city's AIDS agencies and continued attacks on its HIV prevention efforts.

With Republicans now in control of both the federal government, as well as the Statehouse, they wield enormous power over funding and policy matters. Already local agencies and researchers find themselves on the defensive, constantly under attack by conservative lawmakers and right-wing groups who are waging an all out war on the work that they do.

The battles looming on the horizon are expected to be waged in the worst climate since the days of Ronald Reagan's administration. In 2004 Congress will take up the issue of reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act, and Re-

publicans are sure to try to thwart that effort. Next spring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is set to implement a new set of HIV priorities that will move resources away from keeping people HIV-negative toward ferreting out those people who are HIV-positive.

In California, where next year's budget deficit is already pegged at \$8 billion and likely to rise, all eyes will be on Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger, who will be delivering his budget to state lawmakers by January. In years past, Governor Gray Davis and his aides made funding for HIV and AIDS a priority, and while Schwarzenegger's chief of staff comes from the health field, the next administration has yet to offer any assurances when it comes to AIDS funding.

"I think that clearly there is no good news on the horizon from government. With the Ryan White CARE Act, the best we can hope for in the new year is flat funding," said Project Open Hand Executive Director Tom Nolan.

Officials working in HIV prevention said they will be looking to the next mayor to use his or her office as a bully pulpit and hope that person will be able to bring a national focus to the current debate under way. In meetings with officials from AIDS agencies held by two of the mayoral candidates, city Treasurer Susan Leal and Su-

pervisor Gavin Newsom, community leaders stressed that the next mayor needs to revive the director of AIDS policy in the next administration. The AIDS czar role has been nonexistent for more than two years since Mike Shriver went on a medical leave of absence.

"That hasn't been terribly important but now it is really important to have someone at the mayor's office lobbying for reauthorizing of the Ryan White CARE Act," said Jim Illig, president of the HIV AIDS provider network. "This is a big issue for a city like San Francisco. We need to have a seat at the table and a strong lobbying effort at the federal level in Washington to make sure our representatives understand what is at stake."

While Brown started off strongly, holding an HIV summit and creating the AIDS czar position, in recent years, "This mayor lost interest. The last couple of years this mayor has not seemed to be at the helm," said Illig.

The last two years in a row several AIDS agencies have had to fight to ensure the mayor's proposed funding cuts did not go through. Nonprofits are already gearing up for another battle this next budget cycle.

"HIV groups will be vigilant again this year in preventing any general fund cuts," said Dana Van Gorder, the San Francisco AIDS

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## HRC remains neutral on controversial judge

by Matthew S. Bajko

While many liberal legal groups and civil rights organizations strongly oppose the nomination of California Supreme Court Justice Janice Rogers Brown to a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the Human Rights Campaign is remaining silent.

The decision by one of the nation's leading gay rights groups has stunned many who are actively petitioning Democratic senators to block Brown's nomination.

"I am taken aback," said Susan Lerner, chair of the Los Angeles-based Committee for Judicial Independence, when told of HRC's neutral stance. "I am surprised. There is a broad basis of opposition to her nomination because of her various speeches and the breadth of her opinions she has rendered that are very extreme. She shows an extraordinarily retrogressive view of what society and the law should be."

Lara Schwartz, HRC's senior counsel, told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Monday, October 27 that a review of Brown's record does not demonstrate a hostility to LGBT rights or demonstrate a bias for equality to LGBT people.

"She is someone who obviously has raised a lot of questions and we requested clarification of her

views to be sure she doesn't harbor a bias against gay parents," said Schwartz. "If it were found that she actually had an opposition to gay rights it would be very important to express concern. But that is not what has happened yet."

HRC has yet to receive a response to its request for clarification from Brown. And Schwartz stressed that the group's silence does not mean it is in favor of Brown's nomination.

"Our not taking out a letter of opposition is not a statement of support," she said.

The Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on Brown's confirmation last week but has yet to vote on her nomination. It is expected that the Republican-controlled committee will send Brown's nomination to the full Senate for a vote. While neither has publicly stated their intentions, both of California's senators, Democrats Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, are under immense pressure to call for a filibuster of the nomination.

The D.C. circuit court is widely viewed as a stepping stone to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"I think it is unfortunate that she is likely to pass out of the committee," said Lerner, who added, "California's senators have responsibility to block her nomination."

Earlier this month the Nation-

al Center for Lesbian Rights announced that it sees many reasons why the gay community should oppose Brown's nomination. The organization stated that a review of Brown's record shows she has a long and extensive history of hostility to civil rights, including voting against the right of lesbian and gay parents in California to use second-parent adoptions to protect their children.

Brown was the lone dissenting vote in the case, *Sharon S. v. the Superior Court of San Diego County*. Although thousands of such adoptions have been granted in California over the past 20 years, Brown's dissent relied on a hyper-technical reading of the adoption statutes to conclude that such adoptions are not permissible under California law.

"The people of this country need and deserve federal judges who will apply the law in a fair and evenhanded way to ensure that the rights of all people are protected," said Marta Donayre, NCLR's director of public education. "Rather than ensuring justice for all, Justice Brown has undermined the rights of vulnerable minorities and made the world a more dangerous place for women, people of color, immigrants, and lesbians and gay men."

In an interview this week, Donayre said her agency is concerned about Brown's views on

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LA



# Gay hoedown in Nov.

by Matthew S. Bajko

Hundreds of gay and lesbian country dance enthusiasts will be taking San Francisco by storm in November as the annual Sundance Stompede, a local gathering, merges with an international convention drawing people from around the world.

The International Association of Gay/Lesbian Country-Western Dance Clubs, nicknamed iggle-wiggle, selected San Francisco's Sundance Stompede for its fall/winter semi-annual convention this year. Organizers are expecting anywhere from 800 to 1,000 people to attend the gathering the second weekend in November.

This is the third year for the association's stompede and the first time the international gathering has taken place on the West Coast in a number of years, said Hal Moss, a member of the Sundance Association's board of directors.

The twice-yearly global pilgrimages to the IAGLCWDC conventions – the spring/summer event took place in Montreal this year – are testament to the growing popularity of country-western dancing in the lesbian and gay community, organizers contend. In the Bay Area, country-western dance nights are now held in the East Bay, South Bay, and San Francisco.

Along with the weekly Sunday night Sundance Saloon at

space550, the Metronome Ballroom in Potrero Hill recently launched a gay and lesbian country night each Thursday, with special men-only and women-only dance nights the first and third Saturdays.

"It seems there is more and more interest. Certainly Sundance has been pulling in a steady crowd and we see new faces every week," said Moss. "In the last year we have seen not only a steady number at Sundance but increasing interest from around the Bay Area."

In Walnut Creek, Club 1220 continues to host country nights, and in Santa Clara, A Tinkers Damn has dances on Thursday nights.

In 1993, seven country-western groups in the southern United States recognized the need for a formal alliance among their organizations, and the IAGLCWDC was born. Today, 10 years later, IAGLCWDC membership has exploded to 33 member clubs from four countries on two continents.

The IAGLCWDC's twice-annual conventions draw large, enthusiastic crowds attracted to the variety of dance-related features which accompany the gatherings. Sundance Stompede 2003, for example, will include dance workshops, exhibitions, and nightly parties, including Saturday night's Hoedown 2003, the centerpiece of the weekend.

Hoedown started in 1997 as a gala charity fundraiser, and was

incorporated into the first Sundance Stompede in 2001. The dance benefits the AIDS and Breast Cancer Emergency Funds.

"The hoedown traditionally has seen people from all walks of city life who have come to see it, not just country-western people," said Moss. "People get a taste for [country dancing] and support a great cause."

The stompede weekend's three dances are open not only to conference attendees, but the public at large. Tickets can be purchased at the door. The Welcome Dance takes place from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, November 7 at the Ramada Plaza's ballroom located at 1231 Market Street. Tickets for the all ages dance cost \$10.

Hoedown takes place from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, November 8 in the atrium of the Galleria Design Center at 101 Henry Adams Street. Tickets for the 21 and over dance cost \$40 at the door or \$30 in advance at Does Your Mother Know, 4079 18th Street near Castro Street.

The Stompede Ball at Sundance Saloon will close the weekend and takes place from 6 to 11 p.m. Sunday, November 9 at 550 Barneveld. The 21 and over dance costs \$8.

Volunteers are also needed to help out both with working the events and being hosts to out-of-towners. To volunteer or for a list of all the weekend's activities, visit [www.stompede.com](http://www.stompede.com) or call (415) 820-1403. ▼



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## OPEN FORUM

## 'Scientific McCarthyism'

University scientists have every right to be extremely concerned—even alarmed—about a government document that names 157 researchers who study AIDS and human sexuality. The list, labeled “scientific McCarthyism” by Representative Henry Waxman (D-California), could very well be used to target prevention programs that socially conservative members of Congress find offensive. This comes several months after HIV researchers said they were told to censor language in grants for funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This week's news of the so-called hit list comes as the Bush administration is attempting to shore up support among the religious right, and is just another example of the administration's apparent determination to make gays a target, just in time for the approaching presidential election.

The president himself has already demonstrated that he will scapegoat gays for votes: he embraced the religious right's dumb “Marriage Protection Week” earlier this month and flip-flopped on the need for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. His recent appeals court nominee, California Supreme Court Justice Janice Rogers Brown, ruled against second-parent adoptions when the case was before the state court earlier this year.

This attempt to stop valuable research into HIV/AIDS and human sexuality is a backwards step and fair-minded lawmakers should begin demanding answers from Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, the NIH, and the CDC. NIH, for its part, has already told members of Congress that the inquiries are to help the agency defend those grants if they come under attack, according to a report in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The scientists, however, see it differently and believe the process is a step toward shutting down their work.

Local researchers named include William Woods, who is studying HIV risk in bathhouses and sex clubs. In April, we reported on Woods's latest study, which raised serious questions about San Francisco's decision to close down gay bathhouses in the 1980s as a way to stem the AIDS epidemic. According to the study, which looked at four cities' regulations regarding bathhouses, researchers found that prohibiting private spaces in the

bathhouses did not affect whether men engaged in unprotected anal intercourse; rather, such a policy did impact where the unsafe sex occurred, the study found.

Woods, a professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, was careful to emphasize that his study did not answer whether the city should allow the bathhouses to reopen.

In our view, Woods's study is important, as is the additional research likely to take place. Woods should not have to feel intimidated that his name is on some sort of blacklist; instead, the research should go forward.

Tom Coates, formerly of UCSF and now at UCLA, was also named on the list. He has conducted major research on HIV for years, and is widely respected. He is also someone who thinks outside the box, as was evidenced a couple of years ago when he bluntly called into question current HIV prevention strategies. But that is his job as a researcher: if something doesn't seem to be working, you study it and, ideally, come up with new ideas and new strategies. Being prevented from conducting the research

necessary to achieve those goals could be deadly for those in the gay community.

Woods and Coates are both openly gay. There is strong evidence that conservative, antigay people within HHS developed the list, Waxman said this week. And the Associated Press reported that an electronic copy of the list includes comments from the

Traditional Values Coalition about several studies, using such GOP buzz words as “promotes a ‘sex-positive’ attitude among teens; endorses sexual behavior and condom use among teens.” That HHS would enlist such homophobes as the TVC to comment on research studies dealing with HIV prevention and human sexuality is also cause for concern.

This latest example of the Bush administration's efforts to placate the religious right at the expense of valid science should be opposed by Congress. If HHS is targeting HIV prevention researchers now, who's to say that other research won't be targeted in the future?

Scientific research needs to be done in an arena free of politics—let the studies continue, and let the results speak for themselves. ▼



## Editorial



THE PERFECT DISGUISE IS ALL-IMPORTANT TO ROCK KNUTESON, CLOSETED GAY FOOTBALL STAR.

## Harris: A dedicated D.A.

by Harry Britt, Roma Guy, Assemblyman Mark Leno, Rafael Mandelman, Sean Reynolds, Jerry Threet, Riley Morgan, and Leslie Katz

The San Francisco LGBT community is known for its innovative politics and its vision for a better, more responsive government. We haven't always agreed on how to implement that vision. And we certainly haven't always agreed on which candidate could best provide the leadership we need to make that vision a reality. But this year a broad coalition of LGBT San Franciscans agrees: Kamala Harris should be our next district attorney.

Kamala Harris has engaged our community as no other district attorney candidate ever has. A broad cross section of LGBT community members has united in supporting her candidacy: Both Assemblyman Mark Leno and former Board of Supervisors President Harry Britt; the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic club; lesbian pioneers Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon; transgender community activists Theresa Sparks and Jordy Jones; the Pride Alliance of LGBT San Francisco Police Officers; BALIF, the Bar association of LGBT lawyers; Jerry Threet, former president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club (and Green Party activist); and Hank Wilson and Jim Rivaldo, two of the Milk Club's founding members; Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA)—all are working hard to elect Kamala.

While many leaders of the LGBT com-

munity have endorsed Kamala Harris for district attorney, nothing speaks louder than the diverse grassroots support she has received from countless members of our community.

Why, when our community has disagreed on candidates in the past, do so many of us support the same candidate for district attorney? The district attorney's office needs new leadership and Kamala Harris is the best choice for San Francisco's LGBT community.

Her actions over the years speak louder than any of the other candidates' mere promises for reform. Kamala Harris has been involved for years in supporting adoptions by gay parents, helping sexually abused gay youth, advocating for equal benefits for domestic partners, and ending the mistreatment of transgender individuals by law enforcement.

Indeed, her devotion to granting LGBT parents equal rights in adoptions was so admired that she won an award for her litigation from the County Counsel Association of California.

Kamala Harris will be a district attorney committed to improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods, supporting greater accountability and effectiveness in the Police Department, protecting access to medical marijuana, and restoring professionalism to the district attorney's office.

Furthermore, her record as a former deputy district attorney for both San Francisco and Alameda counties and as a former managing attorney for the S.F. district at-

torney's career criminal unit has inspired overwhelming support and endorsements from the legal profession, leading many former supporters in previous elections of both of the other candidates to switch this time to Kamala.

She is a veteran prosecutor of serious and violent felonies with a conviction rate over 90 percent and over 13 years of courtroom experience. She was named “One of California's Top 20 Young Lawyers” by the *Daily Journal* legal newspaper in 1998.

Moreover, she is committed to making the prosecution of hate crimes, which disproportionately affect the LGBT community, a priority.

If the best indication of a person's future behavior lies in her past actions, then Kamala Harris has more than demonstrated her commitment to all members of the LGBT community. She has demonstrated clearly that she has the necessary drive, intelligence, and experience to make both the district attorney's office and the Police Department more effective and respectful of our civil rights.

Kamala Harris has a vision of the district attorney's office as a progressive and effective guarantor of justice and safety in every community and neighborhood. Her broad LGBT and legal community support, as well as her record on issues important to the LGBT community, inspires our confidence that she will achieve the vision we share.

We urge you to join us in voting to elect Kamala Harris district attorney on Tuesday, November 4. ▼

## Guest Opinion





## LETTERS

## NOW on Tammy Bruce

The October 16 article featuring Tammy Bruce needs clarification ["Controversial lesbian named to Schwarzenegger transition team"]. Ms. Bruce, past Los Angeles National Organization for Women president, was censured by the national NOW board after refusing to apologize or denounce her racist comments following the O.J. Simpson trial. Ms. Bruce showed, in a series of actions and continued remarks that did not reflect the positions of NOW, that her approach to activism was not congruous with that of NOW. She has since used every opportunity to attack the nation's largest feminist organization, its politics, practices, and philosophies.

Ms. Bruce has no current affiliation with NOW, and her remarks in no way reflect the positions of NOW. It is disappointing that the *Bay Area Reporter* would feature Ms. Bruce, whose commentary on Fox News propagates anti-immigrant, anti-feminist sentiments, and teams her up with some of the most conservative of social commentators. What is even more concerning, though, is that Governor-elect Schwarzenegger would choose her for his transition team, knowing the insult it is to feminists throughout the state.

Helen Grieco, Executive Director  
California National Organization for Women  
Sacramento, California

## Shrinking power base?

I was surprised and delighted to read that Governor-elect Schwarzenegger had chosen lesbian activist Tammy Bruce to be a member of his transition team.

I have enjoyed reading her books and can say that everything Ed Walsh wrote about Ms. Bruce is true. (But why he felt compelled to quote Fran Drescher, of all people, escapes me.) Actually, there is more to Tammy than was reported. She has exposed the ACLU's defense of child molesters, and NOW's support of having a mass-murderer acquitted. She is both anti-illegal immigrant and anti-gun control. Not only that, Tammy expresses compassion and concern for President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan, in the declining years of his life. You may call me homophobic if you wish, but I must agree with Ms. Bruce: 14-year-olds do not need to be taught about fist fucking, or the mechanics of oral sex, in high school.

Tammy Bruce brings decency, common sense, and honesty to the gay rights movement. This is why so many of the dishonest, selfish, and obnoxious "leaders" of the LGBT movement find her threatening. As more people in the LGBT and women's movement become familiar with Tammy and her ideals, the loud mouth liars of those movements will find their power base shrinking. And that is a good thing.

Tom McCloskey  
Burlingame, California

## Schwarzenegger out of touch?

I certainly hope our governor-elect does not think that Tammy Bruce is a credible representative of the gay community as I know it, live it, and participate in it. I was mortified when reading your article, to learn that an educated, freely out lesbian would ever declare any lifestyle to be without merit. Hasn't the transgender community been raked over the coals by both gay and lesbian groups in the last few years that legal entities have declared that "gay sex" and "domestic partners" are valid expressions of American freedom. From Stonewall to Matthew Shepard to Gwen Araujo haven't we stood together, bled, cried, and died together to earn the freedoms that Tammy Bruce seems to take for granted? Why would we want someone with such a skewed point of view speaking for us. Does Arnold Schwarzenegger really want to be that out of touch with the large voting bloc that includes LGBT and all of us willing to stand with each other in support of individual, unique, and different expressions of personal freedoms as granted to us by the federal and state constitutions? Haven't all of us at one time or another believed that we could have been or should have been someone else? From early childhood I imagined feelings and dreams that made me feel conflicted with all the "normalcy" going on around me. I moved to San Francisco to get some freedom and diversity. Why ostracize someone who changes or alters themselves for relief from this feeling of being an outsider in your own body. Let each of us be comfortable in ourselves and remember we are all individuals in our own right.

Karen Masonheimer  
San Francisco

## Greenest thing about Matt is in his wallet

Referring to your October 23 article "Gonzalez 'hit piece' called divisive," let me express my belief that the mailer was not only a divisive hit piece, it was a crass, deceitful act distorting the truth.

The Gonzalez crowd wants us to believe that Angela Alioto and Tom Ammiano are not true progressives. Both of them have a solid record of achievement

for progressive causes that Matt can only envy. His main accomplishment was getting himself elected board president with the help of Tony Hall, the most right-wing board member. The Gonzalez campaign continually touts one poll commissioned by their own allies to prove they have the best chance of defeating Gavin Newsom. What a load of absurdity they present!

Matt Gonzalez is the most smooth-talking, slick politician I have ever witnessed in S.F. and is presently running a campaign full of distortions and lies, a prime example of which is that mailer demonizing Ammiano, leading people to think that Tom is virtually a carbon copy of Newsom. Gonzalez is alienating so many progressives right now that he would not even get all of the progressive vote. The idea that Matt Gonzalez is a pillar of honesty is the greatest deception in this campaign, very often promoted by Newsom fans such as Willie Brown, who cleverly prop up Gonzalez as they would like nothing better than to run against such easy pickings. No Green candidate has ever pulled much more than 15 percent of the vote citywide and besides, the greenest thing about Matt is all of the money in his wallet, three times more money than two years ago when he championed the initiative to triple his own salary.

Arthur Raoul Arroyo  
San Francisco

## Playing politics with homelessness

Maybe we should be flattered. At least Gavin Newsom isn't taking the gays for granted. From the giant Newsom signs hanging from the Café and Harveys to the merchant walks to the weekend tabling at 18th and Castro, Gavin and company are doing their level best to win support in the queer community. But one recent Newsom contribution to Castro politics is not flattering at all. The billboard above Café Flore begs a basic question: Just how dumb does he think we are? The sign reads in giant white-on-black lettering: "169 homeless deaths in San Francisco last year. Vote yes on Proposition M."

Proposition M is Gavin Newsom's anti-panhandling initiative on the November 4 ballot. At best, Proposition M is a recondification and modest expansion of the city's existing restrictions on aggressive panhandling with some pleasant language about expanding diversion programs thrown in for good measure. Viewed less benignly, Proposition M is a possibly unconstitutional and at any rate highly cynical vehicle placed on the ballot to sweep Newsom into office by tapping into voter frustration with our seemingly intractable homeless situation.

The trouble is that Proposition M will not do a thing to solve San Francisco's homeless problems. The 169 homeless deaths last year are indeed a shame upon us all, but those people did not die because our panhandling laws are insufficiently stringent. They died because of three decades worth of disinvestment in our public housing and healthcare infrastructure. For Gavin Newsom to suggest that people are dying on our streets because of flaws in our panhandling laws minimizes the extent of our collective failure to meet the basic obligations of a decent society. For Gavin Newsom to use that message to promote his candidacy for mayor proves his utter unsuitability for the office.

Rafael Mandelman  
San Francisco

## Hooray for straight endorsements

Kudos, hats off, and hooray to both B.A.R. and Wayne Friday for endorsing Gavin Newsom for SF mayor instead of a gay or lesbian candidate. It shows your paper is reaching political maturity and not automatically endorsing someone just because of orientation. Now, if you'll just give Arnold a chance ...

Mike Sher  
Oakland, California

## GAWKers for Ammiano

The Gay Artists and Writers Collective is a loosely connected social group for people involved in music, writing, and the arts. We are looking for space to hold events. We supply DJs, bands, and comedians for events. For information call me at (415) 731-2424.

We support Tom Ammiano for mayor. There are good candidates to choose from. Susan Leal started out as a Willie Brown appointee but proved to be her own person. I've had the privilege of spending time with Matt Gonzalez. He has the care and concern of a real humanitarian as well as real involvement in the San Francisco arts. Angela Alioto offers us fire and music. Tony Ribera has more panache and charm than any Republican should have.

I support Tom Ammiano because he is a strong advocate of rent control, part of old school San Francisco that was about giving poor people a hand up, and striving for fairness with everyone.

Jon Sugar  
San Francisco

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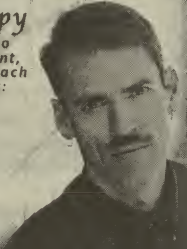
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### Sex policies and politics

Thanks to the SF Study Group on Sex and Politics for its first-ever survey of mayoral candidates' positions on issues related to sexual issues and cultures ["Survey teases out mayoral candidates' sex policies," October 16]. Although the study group does not endorse candidates, reporting their responses, or lack thereof, confirmed my resolve to pass on each of the straight/gay/lesbian Demo Party candidates. I hope there will be many more such surveys and for sure one prior to the anticipated mayoral runoff in December.

Notwithstanding that a couple of years ago the Milk Club condemned the SFPD sex club regulation that forbids private spaces and perpetuates the original, but long vacated, court-ordered ban, Milk Club candidate Tom Ammiano's comment on the risks involved puts him squarely in the tradition of gay Demo bathhouse scapegoating begun by Randy Shilts 20 years ago. Maybe a Libertarian, Republican, or someone like Matt Gonzalez, not beholden to Democratic Party support, could end the ban, but I'm not holding my breath.

Meanwhile, where is the contender who will proclaim "San Francisco deserves a world-class gay bathhouse as have Paris, Berlin, London?" — not to mention El Lay.

Reid Condit  
San Francisco

### Newsom's good at exploiting frustration

Wayne Friday's claim that Gavin Newsom is the only mayoral candidate to offer "workable plans" for dealing with the issue of homelessness is either misinformed or disingenuous ["Newsom for SF mayor," *Our Man Friday*, October 23]. Newsom's plans are terrific at exploiting public frustration over the number of people living on the streets, but not as good at actually dealing with the problem.

Newsom's Care Not Cash proposal to replace cash payments to homeless people with the provision of services seems like a no-brainer. Examined more closely, though, it has serious problems. Providing homeless people with shelter, basic healthcare and other services, as Newsom suggests his plan would do, would actually require the city to spend even more money while doing nothing to address the serious flaws in the system. Perhaps this is why conservative Supervisor Tony Hall has rejected Care Not Cash, calling it "throwing good money after bad."

This year's Proposition M, another Newsom homelessness initiative, is even worse. Proposition M would criminalize "aggressive panhandling." Again, the idea has common sense appeal, but look more closely. The cost of jailing people arrested under this law would be \$88 per night. The city controller's office has estimated that the proposed social services and health programs would cost \$3,700 per person. These programs would duplicate others already in existence, while again doing nothing to reform the system. (See [www.nomorehomelessness.org](http://www.nomorehomelessness.org) for more details.)

Friday notwithstanding, several other candidates have put forward ideas that would actually address the underlying causes of homelessness and the problems with our delivery of care. For example, Matt Gonzalez advocates supportive housing, which would combine stable temporary housing with individualized services to address the problems that keep people on the streets. This is a proven model, with successful projects in San Francisco and elsewhere (see [www.mattgonzalez.com/homelessness.html](http://www.mattgonzalez.com/homelessness.html) for more information).

Don't be misled. Newsom's proposals have received all the hype, but in the words of Gertrude Stein, "There's no there there."

Michael Alterman  
San Francisco

### Gonzalez's 'new progressivism'

San Franciscans are facing a crossroads for regime change as the November 4 election nears. Many hopefuls for high and higher office are fashioning themselves as reformers, but most stand as symptoms of the problematic gridlocked status quo, left and right.

For the mayor's race, Matt Gonzalez represents a new progressivism that transcends the limitations and failures of embittered and enfeebled cold war leftists and is emerging as the future of big tent, majoritarian progressivism in San Francisco.

While we would all like to see a LGBT mayor in 2004, neither queer candidacy has demonstrated credible numbers showing that it can prevail in December, the only election that really counts. Matt Gonzalez is even with Newsom in polls head to head, besting the more seasoned L/G pols such as Tom Ammiano and Susan Leal.

Matt is as queer as hets get and deserves your vote. If your interests rest with millionaires and billionaires, by all means, vote for Gavin Newsom. Otherwise, Matt Gonzalez is the clear choice.

A most disturbing phenomenon in this cycle is the emergence of Kamala Harris in her run for district attorney, bouncing from Brown's bed to patronage appointments at all levels and now possibly into elective office.

Not only are she and her conservative Republican election law attorney and treasurer Jim Sutton profoundly and terminally ethically challenged, but her

list of supporters coalesces into a toxic brew that should only be ingested electorally at your own peril. When the most vicious of political hacks from the left and right unite with Willie Brown on this compromised candidate, it is time for us all to purge this cancerous sleaze operation from our body politic with the electoral equivalent of syrup of ipecac.

The campaign finance reform ordinance that Harris violated serially is not rocket science, folks, and if Harris would misread the law this way for her purposes, then how would she read it for ours? This is a question of judgment.

The call on the DA's race is easy: If you're progressive, vote for Terence Hallinan. If you're moderate or conservative, Bill Fazio is your guy. Let's not allow the corporate political machine to work liberal race guilt to install yet another Tammy Haygood, Gerald Green, or Ronnie Davis in a critical department as effective cover for corruption over a department that carries tremendous power over our lives as well as checking civic corruption.

Either Terence or Bill are more honest and committed to San Franciscans than Kamala.

Fortunately, while not attacking each other, all three DA candidates are united in support of Proposition H, which would expand the Police Commission to seven members, divide the appointments between the board and mayor similar to other successful commission reforms. Most importantly, it would give the Office of Citizen Complaints the power to bring charges to the Police Commission when the brass delay.

Arguments have been made that Proposition H politicizes the Police Commission. One need not flip the page in this paper to Police Commissioner Friday's column to see that there is no barrier to police commissioners' bantering in politics. Proposition H ensures that all sides of San Francisco's diverse political spectrum are at the larger table setting policy priorities for our police department rather than tolerating the cursory 30-minute commission meetings that now pass for oversight over a department that excuses a persistent, dangerous, sometimes deadly rogue element.

Proposition H is measured reform. Two decades worth of scandals and abuses testify that reforms such as Proposition H are long overdue. The power of Proposition H is measured by the amount of money the Police Officer's Association is spending against it, declining to sunshine their expenditures until next year under a loophole available to the well financed.

Finally, Proposition L, the minimum wage, is a no brainer. It is a compromise from the \$14/hour that would pay for living in SF that shares the burden equitably between the low wage worker, employer and customer, and it deserves your vote.

Marc Salomon  
San Francisco

### Daly has no respect for peers

Supervisor Chris Daly is the perfect example of what is wrong with district elections. The man was elected into office with not much more than 3,000 votes. Youngster Daly has proven he has absolutely no respect for his peers and even less respect for the people of San Francisco.

Hopefully none of the other supervisors support such a childish action by an elected official. If any of the supervisors support such blatant disrespect, you can be sure it will be a big part of their re-election campaign next year. I sure hope Gerardo Sandoval, Jake McGoldrick, Matt Gonzalez, and Aaron Peskin think long and hard about if they are going to support such a childish disrespectful act.

Daly should think of creative ways of cleaning up the dirtiest district in the city — District 6 — instead of continuing washing away our taxpayer dollars.

Shame on Chris Daly.

Jimmy Legg  
San Francisco

### Elliott Smith, RIP

I'm just trying to sort out my feelings on the recent apparent suicide of Elliott Smith.

Being a queer, I guess I was just drawn to this sensitive man's voice and music. Not all queers were, I'm just meaning this queer. Me.

He kept me company in some very alone times, and I loved his beautiful heart, which he inexplicably, they say, drove a knife through. In 1997, after a relationship breakup, he told *Ink Blot* magazine that he had tried before. "I jumped off a cliff, but it didn't work." This time he succeeded.

I can't believe I haven't been seeing this covered as much as I thought I would, if it wasn't for Yahoo news, I might still not know.

I went home that night and cried like I hadn't in years, enjoying the quiet-core tunes I loved so much, for the first time since the news. As the hot tears washed my face, I imagined JT Leroy joining me for a little sad jig and a smoke. For me, it hasn't hurt like this since Kurt. I feel like crushed sand. I will move forward with my own quiet-core tunes, and remember the man who turned some of the bad times into the golden path.

Moon Trent  
San Francisco



## POLITICS

# Arnold flexes political muscle in Capitol

by Wayne Friday

Governor-elect **Arnold Schwarzenegger's** visit to Sacramento last week left little doubt that he was indeed the new sheriff in town and longtime Sacramento power brokers like state Senate leader **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) and Assembly Speaker **Herb Wesson** (D-Los Angeles) appeared to be pretty much play putty in the hands of the new governor-elect.

First, Burton, appearing to bend over backwards to please the incoming governor (something he never did for **Gray Davis**), poked yet another finger in the eye of the outgoing Democratic governor by refusing Davis's request to call a special session of the Legislature to consider last-minute appointments of Davis's key aides to state boards and commissions. Burton said that the pending Davis appointments would not be reviewed until the Senate reconvenes in regular session in January. By then, of course, Schwarzenegger will have long replaced Davis, and the new governor can be expected to withdraw most of the names of those Davis has nominated.

During Schwarzenegger's two-day appearance in the Capitol city, Davis did the proper thing in cordially welcoming his replacement, and, observers say, did his best to make Schwarzenegger feel at ease in his unfamiliar surroundings. However, it was Burton and Wesson who appeared to roll over and lap up Schwarzenegger's jokes and wisecracks as though they were a bit star-struck (hey, Burton and Schwarzenegger have mutual movie star friends! Cool, huh?).

Burton and Wesson immediately put their members on notice to be prepared to return to Sacramento for a probable special legislative session on November 18, the day after Schwarzenegger is scheduled to take office. Schwarzenegger said during his Sacramento meetings last week that he would indeed call the Legislature into a special session to address the drivers license legislation, reforms in the worker's compensation system, and budget issues.

One upcoming early victory for the incoming governor is likely to be a repeal by the Legislature of SB60, the controversial measure signed into law by Davis that would give driver's licensees to some illegal immigrants. During the campaign, Schwarzenegger repeatedly pledged that he would call the lawmakers back in special session to repeal that law, and the governor-elect reportedly made it clear to legislative leaders during his Sacramento visit last week that it was now politically impossible for him to compromise on his vow to repeal the law. Some leaders, including Democrats, are reportedly of the mind that they should repeal the measure rather than have it revoked in a March ballot initiative that could trigger a broader voter backlash.

During the campaign, Schwarzenegger talked of proposing a bond issue of \$20 billion immediately upon taking office, with

voter approval slated for March 2004 to guarantee its legality. The proposed \$20 million bond issue would supposedly allow the new governor to cover outstanding debts and allow him to begin, in effect, with a clean slate for 2004-05.

Schwarzenegger looks like he's on a mission to kick ass with these guys and there's a part of me that says more power to him. They'll soon be wishing they had Davis to deal with. With Burton and Wesson rolling over, bowing down, and kissing up to Schwarzenegger and with Attorney General **Bill Lockyer** boasting that he voted for Arnold (and what's up with that, for God's sake?), there is at least one Democrat in Sacramento that doesn't appear to be swooning over the newly-elected movie star governor. **Phil Angelides**, the state treasurer and a leading candidate for governor in 2006, last week warned

Schwarzenegger and his incoming team that they shouldn't depend solely on the big bond issue, but should have a backup plan in place to cover the hole that the legally challenged borrowing might leave. Without such a plan, Angelides warned that the state could end up with a \$14 billion shortfall next June, when other short-term loans come due. Angelides, incidentally, is not a big supporter of Schwarzenegger's plan to immediately roll back the new increase in car taxes; that would cost \$4 billion and would be taken from money normally going to counties and cities.

Even with the likes of Burton, Wesson, and other top Sacramento political leaders "reaching out," Schwarzenegger is likely to find that running the governor's office is going to be a hell of a lot more difficult than buying it. As *The Sacramento Bee's* respected political writer **Dan Walters** put it last week: "Even with a massive new bond issue, the numbers don't add up to a balanced budget unless he [Schwarzenegger] is willing to slash social services and educational programs and/or force local governments to eat the \$4 billion reduction in car taxes."

## Politics and people

"Puke politics": Wasn't it Attorney General **Bill Lockyer** who piously trashed Gray Davis's political campaigning as "puke politics" (before he marched out and voted for Republican Schwarzenegger, that is)? Well, the one quote from Lockyer about Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante** that has been widely quoted goes like this: "You know people in your profession really well. You know who works and who doesn't. You know who's honest and who isn't, and that's all I'm going to say." But, that wasn't all that the holier-than-thou Lockyer apparently had to say. **CALPEEK**, the popular and respected weekly political newsletter, reports that Lockyer, discussing various choices for governor in the recent recall election, said the following as well: "It came down to the Terminator, the masturbator, and the prevaricator; I'll let you figure it out." **CALPEEK**

claims that the quote has been confirmed by sources who attended the postmortem, and adds that "it's no mystery who the Terminator is, but we won't go near the other two categories." Damn, and this guy Lockyer claims to be a loyal Democrat. Ha! (I'm tossing my Lockyer in '06 button).

**Terence Hallinan**, the controversial incumbent district attorney, has for years run for office boasting that he's "the most progressive" district attorney in America. **Kamala Harris** — a leading challenger to the hapless Hallinan, and who has the endorsements of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Bay Area Reporter*, Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco), the **Alice B. Toklas LGBT Demo Club**, Supervisors **Aaron Peskin**, **Fiona Ma**, **Sophie Maxwell**, and a host of city figures — says that's not enough. Harris says she is running because San Francisco deserves a district attorney who is "both progressive and effective." Vote November 4 to clean up the district attorney's embarrassing office; vote Kamala Harris for district attorney.

What can be said about acting Mayor **Chris Daly's** mischievous move of appointing two of his friends to the powerful Public Utilities Commission while Mayor **Willie Brown** was out of town that hasn't already been said? A childish, boorish, publicity-seeking power play? Probably. But there are those of Brown's supporters who say the mayor set himself up for just such a prank by trusting the unpredictable supervisor in making him "acting mayor" in the first place. Brown reportedly publicly praised Daly at a recent breakfast calling Daly "the kind of upcoming, young city leader" (or something to that effect). Live and learn, Mr. Mayor, or as former President **Ronald Reagan** once said: "Trust (if you must), but verify." Most who I have spoken with about the prank feel that Daly might have won a temporary political battle against the mayor, but likely will lose the war in the end because of a lack of credibility. As one of his allies said to me over the weekend: "Not a smart move on Chris' part — can you imagine a Mayor Newsom or even a Mayor Ammann giving the guy any power in the future — he and his aide would surely be waiting to pull off something."

A lot of questions, both personal and professional, are being asked around Sacramento about **Patricia "Pat" Clarey**, the HMO executive that Governor-elect Schwarzenegger has named to be his new chief of staff, one of the

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Chief of staff Patricia Clarey

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# Rodents, research, and ramifications

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Last week, a potentially groundbreaking study was released out of the University of California, Los Angeles. One Dr. Eric Vilain and his crack team of UCLA researchers extracted RNA from the brains of 10-day-old mice, and compared the levels of activity they spied. What they discovered may well point to core genetic differences between men and women.

This study may well challenge earlier research that showed that estrogen and testosterone were the sole cause of gender identity in the mind. That is, that these hormones "organized" the brain in a distinctly male or female fashion. After all, sex hormones are not produced by 10-day-old mice.

Vilain and his colleagues are planning on digging further, not only into figuring out what roles these specific genes play in the minds of these rodents, but seeing if these genes may well lie at the core of both transgender identities and homosexuality.

That is a large part of their goal. Now that they believe they've discovered genes that are involved with gender identity, they can start to look at things like transsexual and other forms of gender variance as being a genetic issue formed within the womb.

Many transgender people are overjoyed with this, as Vilain's research flies in the face of Dr. J. Michael Bailey, who has recently been trying to foist his own model of transgenderism on the general public through his book, *The Man Who Would Be Queen*. His research — and I use the term loosely — states that transgender identity comes from one of two things: an example of hyper-homosexuality, or the eventual outgrowth of a fetish for feminization. No genetic "gendering" of the brain involved at all.

I applaud Vilain and company's attempts to figure out if all this stuff we call transgender — as well as gay, lesbian, and bisexual — is "hardwired" in us, and it could well help some of our detractors understand that this is not the "choice" they wish to tell us it is.

Of course, the issue of choice is what put this study in the headlines.

It seemed as if every possible side of the debate went into high gear, spinning this research in the way that would best benefit their own agenda. Most notable, per-



Christine Smith

haps, were the religious right groups, who jumped at the research with lightning speed. Even to the point of contradicting themselves.

Their own hand-picked experts either said it was a good study, but didn't prove if people are "born gay" — most of them seemingly forgot about the transgender and intersex aspects of the research — or they said that the study was

clearly flawed, because they have some ex-gays that some- how disprove it all. Not that anyone is extracting the RNA from the brains of Exodus members.

At the same time, one LGBT parenting Web site spoke of the study as if it was practically the "smoking gun" for sexuality. Like the religious right articles, they also somehow missed the transgender and intersex ramifications of this research.

There is, however, more at stake. Vilain also wants to look at

the ramifications these genes may have on intersex individuals. That is where things get sticky.

You see, not content with just trying to figure out how these genes work, Vilain is suggesting that his research can help doctors assign genders to intersex infants. I'm very uncomfortable with this.

It has been common practice — likely as long as there have been doctors delivering our young — for members of the medical profession to "correct" intersex infants. As many intersex activists will gladly tell you, these same doctors don't exactly have the greatest success rate in picking a gender for these kids. More so, many would have liked their genitals to have not been messed with at all. I cannot disagree: it's an interesting piece of research, but if the goal is merely to provide another reason to cut up intersex babies in some vain attempt to make them appear physically "normal" — then count me out. There simply has to be a better way.

I don't suspect that Vilain has

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## Our Man Friday

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Capitol's most powerful positions. Clarey, 50 and single, is a veteran of the politics of Washington, D.C. and Sacramento. She worked in the Interior Department under the first Bush presidency, having been a Chevron lobbyist before that. In Sacramento she served as deputy chief of staff under **Pete Wilson's** longtime chief of staff. Clarey has overseen lobbying for Health Net, California's third-largest health maintenance organization, since March 2001; she worked for a major life insurance company prior to that. Clarey has a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and she has been described by those who have worked with her and know her as a "moderate" on social issues. More on the professional and personal life of this powerful woman later.

The San Francisco mayor's race is beginning to really heat up with **Angela Alioto's** mailer aimed at senior voters ("Senior Alert") at-

tacking mayoral front-runner **Gavin Newsom** being the first of many expected hit pieces we'll all be getting before election day.

And my "Quote of the Week" comes from supervisor and mayoral candidate **Matt Gonzalez**, telling the November issue of *San Francisco* magazine that he doesn't necessarily agree, as some have claimed, that his last-minute entry into the mayoral race was designed to hurt **Tom Ammiano's** chances. Gonzalez: "Sure, there's a danger I can be blamed for screwing it up for Tom, but anyone who looks at the race with a critical eye knows Tom is going nowhere. So, what's the worst that can happen? I bring in some people who wouldn't have voted. And at least I feel better being on the campaign trail, talking negative about Newsom."

My recommendations for Tuesday: Gavin Newsom for mayor; Kamala Harris for district attorney; Michael Hennessey for sheriff. Vote YES on Propositions A, B, C, F, G, K, L, M. Vote NO on Propositions D, E, H, I, J, N. Tuesday, November 4 is Election Day. Vote as you please, but please vote.

And how was your week? ▼



## COMMENTARY

# Polls won't bring us gay marriage

by Dale Carpenter

Nationally, support for gay marriage now stands at about 40 percent. Opposition has dropped to somewhere in the low- to mid-50s. Some polls in individual states, like Massachusetts, actually show that a slight majority supports it. Even 10 years ago none of this would have been imaginable.

So all this means we'll thwart any attempt to amend the Constitution to ban gay marriages, right? Amending the Constitution would require a super-majority that opponents of gay marriage no longer have, after all. And soon we'll get a state legislature somewhere, Massachusetts perhaps, to adopt full-fledged gay marriages.

Don't count on it. Polls can be deceiving and by themselves are an unreliable base for political power. In this case they are probably both.

Polls are subject to error and bias. One error involves sampling from a population that doesn't reflect the relevant opinion group. For example, a polling firm may choose respondents based on the expectation that Democrats and Republicans will vote in roughly equal numbers. But what if many more Democrats than expected actually vote? The poll will be wrong.

Bias can creep in through the sequencing of questions. If you

ask Americans in a single question whether they approve George Bush's performance as president they are likely to give you more positive responses than if you first ask them questions that remind them of problems in the economy and in Iraq.

The way a question is phrased can also skew answers. If you ask, "Do you believe a woman should be able to make her own decision about whether to terminate her pregnancy, free of government interference?" you will get a very different response than if you ask, "Do you think a woman should be allowed to kill her unborn child?" Yet it's the same question.

No matter how you ask the question, however, sometimes respondents give answers that do not reveal their true feelings. Rather, they give the "right" answer, that is, the answer they think they should give. This is especially true on sensitive social issues that deal with race and human sexuality.

In the case of gay marriage, we encounter all three problems – sampling error, question bias, and answer bias. To start, what is the relevant group to survey? All adults? Those likely to vote in the next general election? Those likely to vote in a referendum?

There can be bias, too, in the questioning. Is a respondent's opinion of gay marriage to be asked after other questions calling

attention to the problems unmarried gay couples face? After questions regarding the decline of moral values? Out of the blue, with no context?

The biggest problem in polling on gay marriage is answer bias. Time after time, experience shows that polls underestimate the voting public's opposition to gay marriage.

A textbook example of this is California's experience in 2000 with an initiative to ban gay marriage. On the eve of the vote, a poll showed only 51 percent of Californians opposed gay marriage. In the actual vote, 61 percent opposed it. And this was in a relatively gay-friendly state.

What happened? It appears citizens told pollsters what they thought they should say, not what they actually believed. Nobody

wants to be thought a bigot. But get them in the privacy of the ballot box and inhibitions are lost. Whatever the polls say, actual public feeling on gay marriage is likely to be more hostile.

Even if we could get answers that truly reflected what Americans think on the issue of gay marriage, however, that would still not translate into automatic political power proportionate to the response in the polls. The kind of public opinion that fuels actual power depends not just on raw numerical support or opposition, but on the intensity of that support or opposition.

People who feel strongly about a subject are likely to contribute their money and time to fighting for their view. They are likely to vote based on a candidate's stand on that subject, to the exclusion of

other issues.

There are a few people, mostly gay people, who strongly favor gay marriage. But that 40 percent of the public now claiming to "support" gay marriage includes a large number of people who unreflectively oppose all "discrimination" yet haven't given the specific issue much thought. It includes some who will revert to opposition given the least reason to do so. It includes many who favor gay marriage, but consider it rather unimportant in their own lives.

On the other hand, among the rest of the public who oppose gay marriage is a large proportion of religious and other voters who abhor even the thought of gay unions. They will give money to fight it. They will walk precincts, make phone calls, and lick en-

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## Transmissions

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talked with many intersex individuals before deciding that his work could be used in such a way. He could have saved UCLA a lot of time and money if he'd simply talked with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals in the first place. After all, we know from experience that our very identities have little to do with choice.

As a transgender woman, I have long held that my sense of gender identity is an innate thing. It was not my society that "made" me this way, nor the actions of

friends and family. Further, it's never felt like something I came up with some day out of the blue, nor has my gender ever been an option as simple like choosing Coke over Pepsi. Naturally, my sense of gender identity is not the product of Bailey's flawed binary, either.

This doesn't leave many more options, does it? After all these other options are discarded, it simply stands to reason that gender identity is a more innate issue. Yet if we're willing to toss aside all these other possibilities, then why even worry about Vilain?

Groundbreaking as this study may be in understanding how gender identity works within the

mind of small, furry rodents – and possibly large, mostly hairless primates – I know that it doesn't change how I live my life. It does nothing to change how I feel about myself, and isn't going to make for any radical shifts in my behavior.

I already know who I am, and there's no study that's going to change that. ▼

Gwen Smith also discounts being dropped on the head as a small child as a possible cause of her transgenderism. You can find her on the Web at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com).



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\*To receive our endorsement, Chief Tony Ribera and Bill Fazio completed a questionnaire, were interviewed, and expressed support of key LGBT and City issues of concern to LCRSF. Paid for by the Log Cabin Republicans of San Francisco, P. O. Box 14174, San Francisco, CA 94114. For more information, call Paul Lynd, LCRSF's President, at (415) 765-5836.





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# Ribera would appoint 'Castro Sweep' ex-cop to Police Commission

by Zak Szymanski

**F**ormer Police Chief and current Republican candidate for mayor Tony Ribera may not be a front-runner, but his public statements that he would appoint Jack Jordan to head the Police Commission are being taken seriously by many in the LGBT community.

Jordan, the brother of former police-chief-turned mayor Frank Jordan, was a 29-year police veteran when he was forced to retire from the department in 1989 because of his role in the infamous "Castro Sweep," one of the most violent incidents in San Francisco history. He also faced charges for his involvement in the beating of farmworkers union leader Dolores Huerta, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported last week.

Witnesses and historical accounts have reported that on October 6, 1989, a group of ACT UP members and other activists had gathered in the Castro to peacefully protest federal inaction on

AIDS when nearly 200 police officers — half of all the cops on duty — invaded the neighborhood, beating protesters and passersby, sweeping all the pedestrians from several blocks, and arresting thousands. Jack Jordan was deputy police chief at the time.

At a candidates' forum at the LGBT Community Center on Sunday, October 26, Ribera was asked about his intended appointment, and he defended his decision to those in attendance.

"I know Jack Jordan had problems with the ACT UP demo, [but] actually he wasn't on the scene, Captain [Richard] Cairns was. I've worked with Jack and I can tell you for a fact he's not homophobic," Ribera said. "I want him to be aggressive on police discipline and I think he has the tenacity to do that."

For LGBT politicians like Robert Haaland, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, Ribera's race may not be a priority, but proposed future appointments by any of the candidates for mayor are an important issue.

"I would hope that whoever becomes mayor would meet with community-based activists to discuss the implications of who they appoint, prior to making such an important appointment," said Haaland. "The next mayor needs to be able to bring everybody to the table, not just the parts they like. They're going to be representing the entire city."

At press time, the San Francisco chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans, which has endorsed Ribera for mayor, was not prepared to make a statement about Ribera's plans for the Police Commission.

"I had not heard that, so I cannot comment," said Paul Lynd of Log Cabin, explaining that he was unaware of Ribera's intentions.

Ribera, according to a recent Log Cabin statement, "worked to support and recruit gay and lesbian officers in the police department. He testified before Congress in support of repealing the ban of gay and lesbian soldiers in the military. Ribera also hired the first transgendered officer in the department." ▼

## Gay Shame protests Newsom fundraiser

by Zak Szymanski

**M**ary for Mayor" kicked off her campaign outside a fundraiser held by Supervisor Gavin Newsom on Friday, October 24 near Union Square.

"Mary" is the name adopted by all members of the activist group Gay Shame, and the more than 60 people in attendance were using the fundraiser at Ruby Skye to protest Newsom's homeless policies. Unlike other Gay Shame protests against Newsom, this one ended peacefully, although not without confrontation.

"Gavin Newsom wants to arrest poor people for asking for money, while he's inside asking for up to \$10,000 a head for dinner," said a Gay Shame spokesman through a bullhorn.

More than a dozen police officers stood in front of the entrance to Ruby Skye while activists

danced, ate, and jeered on the sidewalk. Frowning Newsom supporters stood outside, one of whom remarked, "They just want to create controversy."

When the demonstration moved into the street in front of the restaurant and nightclub, police threatened to use force. Gay Shame members blocked the street for about seven minutes, then moved around the block toward Geary and Taylor streets, where they burned a human-sized stick figure resembling Newsom.

Other than dousing the flames, police were nowhere to be seen once the activists left the perimeter of Newsom's event, despite the fact that the mob continued to block streets and traffic throughout the theater district for hours. The costume-clad, music-blaring activists drew a crowd from nearby restaurants and hotels, and several people in business suits were seen dancing. ▼



Gay Shamer outside Newsom fundraiser Friday.

## Mayor & AIDS

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Foundation's director of state and local affairs. "There is going to be concerns of what our final CARE award will be from the federal government. If it is reduced, we will see whether the city is willing to pitch in to make up the difference."

Yet HIV and AIDS concerns have mostly been pushed aside in this year's mayor's race by debates on homelessness, housing, and police reform. Even during Sunday's candidate forum at the LGBT Community Center, the issue of AIDS hardly seemed like a pressing matter. The sole question on the topic was folded into a broader question about funding of nonprofit groups.

Leal, who has released a comprehensive plan on HIV and AIDS, said she would appoint a liaison to

nonprofits, including ASOs.

"The mayor should be supportive and a nurturing partner to our nonprofits," she said.

Former Supervisor Angela Alioto touted the needle exchange bill she authored and said she would appoint a health czar to work on drug-resistant TB and HIV.

"The AIDS epidemic is by no means over," she said, adding that cocktail drugs have their side effects. "Yet funding is so minimalist because people think it's over," she said.

Supervisor Tom Ammann discussed how he helped broker a compromise where \$1 million was taken out of the police budget to restore money to AIDS programs, while Supervisor Matt Gonzalez spoke about his position on the city's tax structure.

Former Police Chief Tony Ribera said AIDS is "still a very deadly disease" and said he would

make sure San Francisco remains a model city in responding to the epidemic.

Newsom said he would be more inventive and in the short term, do more with less. He stressed the need for good relationship with state and national officials, particularly federal officials with the reauthorization of Ryan White CARE Act approaching.

Perhaps AIDS issues seem to be less volatile than in years past because the top tier candidates all have proven track records of being fully supportive of HIV issues, and gone are the days when AIDS concerns brought massive numbers of people into the street to protest.

"The epidemic is in a different place. It is hidden from view," said Nolan. "Certainly some of the real activist types have moved on literally or figuratively. People living with AIDS just aren't as physically visible as they used to be." ▼



# Army general involved in antigay incident approved for promotion

by Bob Roehr

The Senate Armed Service Committee approved the promotion of General Robert T. Clark on October 23 and has sent it on to the full Senate.

Clark was commander of Fort Campbell, Kentucky in 1999 when Army private Barry Winchell was bludgeoned to death in an antigay assault while he slept. Two soldiers are serving time for the murder, and the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network and others have sought to hold Clark accountable as well.

An antigay attitude permeated the base at that time; drill sergeants made antigay remarks, and similar, antigay graffiti was common. This happened despite the fact that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a policy meant to allow gays to serve in the military, albeit not openly, had been in effect for six years.

Fearing for their safety, more than a hundred soldiers at Fort Campbell declared their own orientation and left the service in the months following Winchell's murder. The Pentagon cleared Clark of any wrongdoing in the incident, but SLDN called the report a whitewash.

SLDN and Winchell's parents, Patricia and Wally Kutteles, have fought Clark's promotion to three stars since it was first proposed last fall. Clark had resisted meeting with the parents but finally did so last May. At that meeting he took no responsibility for the at-



SLDN's Dixon Osburn

mosphere that contributed to her son's death, Mrs. Kutteles said. She sees him as unfit for promotion.

The Senate committee again reviewed Clark's record in a closed door session last Thursday, and later off to the side of the Senate chambers, agreed on a voice vote to forward the nomination. Chairman John Warner (R-Virginia) noted the "unusually long period of time" and opportunity given to review the nomination. He had twice deferred a committee vote and supports Clark's nomination.

Three Democratic Senators — Daniel K. Akaka (Hawaii), Hillary Clinton (New York), and Ted Kennedy (Massachusetts) — were not present when the vote was taken, but indicated that they would have voted against the nomination, according to the *Washington Post*.

In a statement released by his office, Kennedy said, "I opposed General Clark's nomination because it is far from clear that he acted appropriately in dealing with the brutal hate crime committed at Fort Campbell. We need to hold senior commanders accountable if they allow a climate of bigotry, intimidation and fear to exist on our nation's military bases."

SLDN Executive Director Dixon Osburn was "disappointed in the confirmation. We do not believe that General Clark's record merits this promotion." He was encouraged by the fact that it has been stalled by more than a year and he believes that has made all military officers take antigay incidents more seriously.

Winchell's parents called the committee's action "a grave mistake. The harassment of our children must not find harbor in the world's most effective military."

Nominations ordinarily are handled along with other routine business on the consent calendar of the Senate. SLDN spokesman Steve Ralls said they are trying to get a separate vote on Clark, but at this point it seems "highly unlikely." He anticipates the nomination will pass rather quickly. ▼

## OutRight

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after a court victory in Massachusetts or some other state whips opposition into a frenzy, we could lose a battle over a constitutional amendment.

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Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at [www.indegayforum.com](http://www.indegayforum.com). He can be reached at [OutRight@aol.com](mailto:OutRight@aol.com).

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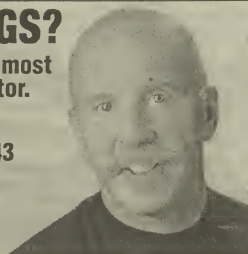
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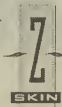
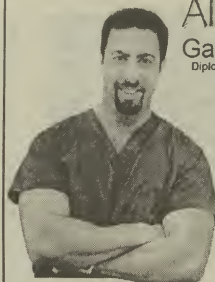
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## Three vie for DA post

by Zak Szymanski

**O**n Tuesday, November 4, San Franciscans will go to the voting booths to elect a district attorney.

The three candidates vying for the seat include incumbent Terence Hallinan, long considered a progressive and friend to the LGBT community; three-time candidate Bill Fazio, painted as a tough-on-crime prosecutor; and Kamala Harris, whose diverse campaign has promised new ideas and a more responsible way to effect justice.

The *Bay Area Reporter* spoke to all the candidates about their ideas for the DA's office, in light of continued quality of life crimes and other issues facing San Francisco.

During this campaign, Hallinan must defend the lowest crime conviction rate in the state; his office convicted less than 30 percent of all adult felony suspects arrested in the city in 2001. As a progressive, however, he said that part of why he was elected is that he favors alternative sentencing for non-violent offenders, and that those offered rehabilitation and diversion instead of prison greatly affect his so-called poor statistics.

"We have 3,000 people on felony drug diversion right now," Hallinan told the B.A.R. "Everyone who succeeds in those programs is a case I 'lose,' so that's hell on that crummy conviction rate statistic."

His conviction rate means nothing, he said, when one looks at the overall crime rates in San Francisco, and the progress he has been able to make without subscribing to a "lock 'em up" brand of criminal punishment for non-violent offenders.

First-time candidate and opponent Harris has the endorsement of many of the city's LGBT, ethnic, and Democratic groups and elected officials, including former Hallinan supporters who believe that the DA's office has failed to be effective.

With a broad base of support and diversity reflected in every aspect of her campaign, Harris has focused on the power of such diversity, as well as the energy she has been able to harness as a candidate who approaches justice from a proactive, yet still progressive point of view.

"People don't want to turn the clock backward," Harris told the B.A.R. "And part of my campaign has been about offering new ideas to old problems that have faced the city."

Fazio, who is in the race against Hallinan for the third time, unveiled his 15-point plan last week for the district attorney's office should he be elected.

Although he was careful to say that the plan was not an attack on Hallinan, he was critical of the way the office has been run, and offered solutions to the problems he identified.

"It goes without saying that Hallinan has been a complete failure as shown by his inability to manage that office," Fazio told reporters last week outside the Hall of Justice, adding that he would bring a level of professionalism - and not politics - to the office of district attorney.

Number one on his 15-point plan? Fazio would pledge to live within the city that he serves.

"It's ridiculous that Hallinan goes home to Petaluma," he said.

Other ideas of Fazio's include a 24-hour on-call district attorney to handle breaking cases and investigations, and updating and improving data collection and case management, the details of which are outlined in his plan.



Candidate Kamala Harris

### Kamala Harris

The first thing Harris plans to do as district attorney is to hire an impartial party to conduct an audit of the office, to review how resources have been misused so that she can redirect efforts into problem areas.

For Harris, the failure of the current district attorney's office can most visibly be witnessed by the state of the city's streets, and the continued burden of quality of life crimes. Her proposed solutions are to make greater use of community-based resources, to get people into diversion and rehabilitation without letting them off the hook for their offenses.

"It's just a matter of being able to effectively access all the resources and funding from available grants and foundation sources; I plan on looping that in with community-based resources so that people can access job training and other services, and juveniles can better access mentoring programs. I know that those resources are not being maximized," Harris said.

As it stands, she said diversion is "minimally effective," in part because people are not even getting charged for their crimes, which makes police officers reluctant to spend their energy arresting offenders, who in turn are never referred to the diversion programs they need.

"When people who commit crimes think that there is no consequence," said Harris, "they are more likely to recommit."

Improving the relations between the D.A.'s office and police would top her list of priorities, she said, as would providing department leadership on - and resources toward - rehabilitating people coming out of the state prison system.

Perhaps the least visible problem plaguing San Francisco, she said, is domestic violence, and she takes issue with Hallinan's decision to disband the misdemeanor domestic violence unit, only to "reassemble it once the campaign started."

"His excuse was the budget created a need to scale down. Well, my priorities are not to abandon some of the most vulnerable victims to save dollars, especially when the dollars can be saved by making sure we're maximizing the way we present trials and gather witnesses," said Harris.

An obstacle in Harris's campaign has been her recent ethics violation around adhering to voluntary spending limits; although her original literature promised to limit spending, she was found to have mistakenly overspent by \$89,000. She agreed to pay \$34,000 in fines to the Ethics Commission and has paid for ads alerting voters to the mixup.

"Two courts agreed that we made a mistake which was unintentional. I took complete and full responsibility without fighting it, and that was the right thing to do," she said, adding that Hallinan refuses to take responsibility for the failings of his office, and Fazio, likewise, will not discuss his own ethics violations including the fact that four of his cases were overturned for prosecutorial misconduct.

Hoping that the setback will be just a road bump, Harris is plunging forward, and she intends to win the election for district attorney. She is the one candidate, she said, with the power to bring together people of all backgrounds to work for change.

"In every community, be it Bayview or Pacific Heights - on every issue, be it domestic violence or quality of life - everybody wants change. And everybody wants new leadership."

Harris said she can achieve this without representing either extreme.

"There's a way to be compassionate," she said, "and still be competent."



District Attorney Terence Hallinan

### Terence Hallinan

Hallinan has explained and defended his felony conviction rate for years, but he has increasingly realized a need to defend his practices around prosecuting quality of life crimes as well.

"We have a good approach to quality of life crimes, and I don't know how much people appreciate it," said Hallinan, who explained that many such crimes are infractions that the D.A.'s office never sees. As for misdemeanors, his office policy is to "bundle" charges, so that "if someone is cited for sleeping on the street one

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Candidate Bill Fazio



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## Speed use

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conducting buy-bust operations in the Castro to nab street level dealers. It is an open secret that dealers work the Castro Muni station and Collingwood Park.

"I put undercover officers around the streets in the Castro to make purchases on the street for meth and ecstasy," said Hettrick.

According to sources, the police have under surveillance four to five houses in the Castro where drug dealing is allegedly taking place, though Hettrick would not comment on any ongoing investigations.

"I can't talk about surveillance or any cases we have ongoing obviously," he said.

Police officers whose beats cover the Castro have also increased their attention on drug dealing in the area. Mission Station Captain Greg Corrales, whose district includes the neighborhood, has made stemming the flow of drugs a top priority.

"The cops daily are working in the Castro. In the last month working on it we have seen an increased amount of speeders or crystal heads in the Castro," said Sergeant Chuck Limbert, the station's liaison to the gay community. "We have had numerous complaints from people living next door to these places. People are banging on the door outside the house at all hours. They are very obvious."

Limbert said the police recently busted a man for allegedly selling out of his apartment near 18th and Hartford streets only to have him post \$500,000 bail and be nabbed just days later for again allegedly dealing.

"I don't think it is happening just at Collingwood Park. Crystal is readily available anywhere in the city," said Limbert. "Educated gay men don't go to the park to get their drugs."

The neighborhood bars and clubs have also fallen under police focus over the past year, with officers asking owners and managers to work with them on dealing with crystal use in their establishments. On Halloween night, undercover agents from Alcohol and Beverage Control will be out in force not only looking for underage drinking but also drug dealing as well.

Limbert said, "We have had numerous complaints from bar managers of people using this drug and exhibiting bizarre behavior and irrational thinking. If we feel they are under the influence of a drug, they can be arrested."

### Logging on

Beyond street level operations, the police are using Web sites to go after people selling to the community. Hettrick said his officers have busted a half dozen people in the past six months found selling speed or ecstasy online.

"I utilize Craigslist. We go after people posting. A post could be for Tina for sale, which is meth, or they say I have vitamin E for sale," code for ecstasy said Hettrick. "We will go after that and respond to those."

Hettrick said he surveys the posts on Craigslist a couple times a week. He also said an informant has indicated drug dealing can be found on trickey.com, a Web site billed as San Francisco's only adult delivery service and video rental.

"I understand a new one right now that is big in the Castro area

for meth and ecstasy is trickey.com," he said. "I haven't been on it but I intend to check it out and see what I find."

A review of the Web site found along with lubricants, sex videos, and leather goods for sale, video head cleaner, commonly referred to as poppers, whip it canisters and balloons all listed for purchase. However, there was no evidence of any narcotics for sale.

Messages left on the Web site's customer care center were not returned by press time.

Postings about party-and-play (PNP) are commonplace on nearly all online sex sites that cater to gay men. Whether it is men posting drugs for sale, looking to buy drugs, or just looking to share their drugs with someone else, there is no shortage of leads for police to track down.

"It is amazing people can feel they can put a post on the Internet and think we would not get a hint to it," said Hettrick. "It is an amazing level of stupidity, that's what it is."

Those who work with men who have meth addictions say a lot of men online think they are safe and are not aware that they may be leading police to them.

"I don't think guys know that. I think the Internet is once again creating the illusion of anonymity for many folks," said Frank Strona, a health educator and HIV prevention manager at Walden House. "They play with that illusion not realizing how vulnerable that can be."

Defense attorneys Robert Amparán and Gabriel S. Caswell, both openly gay men, said people should be aware that law enforcement officials are using other gay men as informants to catch people selling drugs online. The two

attorneys represent one of two men arrested last fall who have been charged with selling drugs out of a van at dance parties South of Market. They said they believe police and federal narcotics agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration employed an informant on the Web site m4m4sex.com who led them to their client.

The lawyers contend that law enforcement officials are using informants to respond to Web site posts advertising PNP in order to gather information they can use to obtain search warrants. Even if the gay men are sharing their drugs with others, under federal statutes sharing is the equivalent of distribution and is a crime.

"We want people to know sharing drugs is illegal and you are being watched," added Caswell. "You could have people over and that someone is informing the federal government."

The attorneys refused to disclose the identity of their clients, but a source confirmed the two men in question are Raymond Chan, a promoter of the now defunct monthly Sunday night dance party XMen, and his boyfriend Albert Law. The two allegedly sold drugs out of their apartment and out of the back of a van during the rave parties. They could face life in prison.

According to the criminal complaint, the SFPD was tipped off to the pair's alleged drug dealing by an unnamed informant who had been to the couple's house for parties and had observed drug use there. Because of the amount of drugs police found in the men's apartment, officers turned the suspects over to federal authorities.

"The DEA won't confirm or deny it, but we think we have tracked down the informant. San Francisco cops working with the DEA officers are patrolling m4m4sex.com. The informant may be the person you are partying and playing with," said Amparán. "I want people to know putting their business out there could have ramifications."

On Tuesday, Hettrick denied that his officers are cooperating with federal authorities, and said he has not visited the m4m4sex.com site. In order for the federal agents to become involved, Hettrick said the dealer in question needs to be found with more than a kilo of meth or more than 1,000 ecstasy pills.

During the raid on the couple's house on Thrift Street last November, police seized 266 grams of methamphetamine, 125 grams of ecstasy, which works out to approximately 500 average size tablets, and \$185,000 in cash.

"We do not work with the DEA and we do not work with state narcotics agents unless there is a very large threshold," Hettrick said. "If the defense lawyer is saying we are targeting people sharing their drugs that is not the truth. This isn't some altruistic individual."

"This is not the person who goes to a club and sells 20 hits to his best friends being charged. This is people having a lot of drugs they are dealing," he added. "He has to have over \$20,000 in drugs in his possession before we take him to federal authorities."

### Not Castro focused

The police say they are not targeting gay men, their target, Hettrick said, are the drug dealers.

"It is not a focus on the Castro. The focus is on drug dealers, whether in Hunter's Point or in the Castro," he said. "What I would like to see is individuals who know about these types of

things going on in their community work with the police more to alleviate the problem."

Spearheaded by District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, there is an effort under way to try to change the gay community's acceptance and tolerance of drug use. More than two dozen representatives from public health agencies, law enforcement, and community organizations met Monday, October 27 to begin working on a coordinated and comprehensive response to speed in the gay community.

However, there is some question of what approach law enforcement should take, with many gay men arguing police need to focus on the major dealers while more services need to be afforded to drug users.

"There is some question whether a law enforcement approach is really ultimately the solution. As long as the demand is high, you can bust as many drug dealers as you want and someone will be there to take their place," said Michael Siever, director of the Stonewall Project, which specializes in gay men who have meth addictions. "One thing I said in the meeting is I think to put a lot of energy into small time dealers may not be very productive. If they want to get big time ones that is a different thing. I think Bevan is very committed to getting people together and figuring out what makes the most sense. Obviously, law enforcement is part of the picture."

Just how men in the community will react to what proposals the action planning group comes up with remains to be seen. Dufty has said he wants to see a campaign where real people speak about how speed has devastated their lives. While the message will not be an overt don't use drugs approach, it is clear the intention is to try to stop gay men from using speed.

"Certainly when this comes up, it will be slightly controversial and there will be people who will question if it is appropriate to be encouraging people not to use drugs," said Dana Van Gorder, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's director of state and local affairs, who took part in the meeting. "The hope is that the effort will speak to people considering to use and encourage them not to or at least be very conscious of their drug use."

"There are a lot of gay men in the community who are very concerned about speed use and will be prepared to participate in some kind of effort," added Van Gorder. "There is a critical mass of people who are concerned."

The meeting came nearly a week after Dufty announced the city is allocating \$425,000 toward treatment programs for both youth and adults who have meth addictions, as well as launching in January a social marketing campaign to address the seriousness of meth.

"We all need to be engaged in this. The trends aren't good right now," said Dufty after the meeting. "What crack cocaine did to the black community, meth will do that to the gay community. We are basically on that crack right now."

Already some in the community are taking action. Along with treatment programs already available, crystal meth anonymous meetings are being started again. Flyers handed out in the past month advertise one such group's meets at 8:30 p.m. on Saturdays at 1661 15th Street at Julian in the Mission. In November, Walden House also hopes to begin sponsoring another group to meet at its facilities in the Mission. ▼

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Mayoral forum

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Leal received enthusiastic responses from the crowd; as did the other major candidates.

Newsom was forceful as he spoke of the need for services for queer youth and rejected the city's current approach to providing for the homeless.

"We've got to deal honestly with [the numbers]," Newsom said in response to a question from the Golden Gate Business Association's Melinda Phillips that pegged the number of homeless in the city at between 8,500 and 15,000, according to various studies. "No one knows the number; that's the fundamental flaw."

Newsom said he wants to look at a coordinated intake system and move away from a cash-based system of care.

"It's outdated," he declared.

Leal stressed the need to hold department heads accountable for the estimated \$200 million San Francisco spends on the homeless, and linked the issue with the need for more substance abuse and mental health services.

"When I was on the board I led the effort to lower the waiting list for drug treatment," the former supervisor and current city treasurer said, acknowledging that the drug treatment on demand effort "has waned" in recent years.



Tom Ammiano at LGBT center

Ammiano spoke of his work several years ago in brokering a compromise that led to the controversial queer youth shelter in the Castro.

"I get it," he said of the need to address the issue. "It should be depoliticized - it shouldn't be the Newsom plan. It has to be a collaborative effort and we also have to focus on the mental health issue."

Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez said that he agreed with Newsom that services are better than cash, but added, "I've never heard him articulate why [Supervisor Chris] Daly's amendment" was not a good alternative.



Angela Alioto at the forum.

Former Supervisor Angela Alioto also criticized Newsom, saying he was one of two people she gave her homeless proposal to when she left the board in 1997. "I gave it to Willie Brown and Gavin Newsom," she said, "and that was the end of that."

Regarding services for queer youth who are homeless, Alioto said there was a need to help.

"Youth who come here are so desperate and so vulnerable. We've got to get them off the streets in 30-60 days," she said, pledging to recreate a 24-hour crisis clinic that was closed by former Mayor Art Agnos.

Tony Ribera, the former police chief and the Republican candidate in the race, emphasized the need for "sound management strategies and accountability."

"Panhandlers tend to be bullies," he added.

Libertarian candidate Michael Denny said he didn't think it was a good idea to "give people something for nothing," and was critical of the health department for not allowing a volunteer medical group to set up a clinic here.

Gay building contractor Jim Reid stuck to his "ShelterOne" plan of constructing small, 100 square foot houses in every neighborhood.

## Gay jobs

Noting that the community center is starting an economic development program targeting the LGBT community, Lynch asked the candidates about what they see as the key economic development issues impacting the community.

Leal touted her experience as a successful business owner and said her plan "really reaches out to small business here."

"First, we need to make it easier for businesses to operate here," she said. "Second, we need to invest in our own people and our own ideas."

As treasurer, Leal said that she has made money for the city while using a socially responsible screen for investments.

The most important challenge,

she explained, is providing links to capital.

She also touched on the importance of gay tourism.

Ammiano talked about specialized concerns for the LGBT community. "People feel we've arrived, so to speak; that there is no economic want and that is not true," he said.

Regarding gay tourism, Ammiano said promoting and marketing the city to LGBT travelers is important, and he also said he's working with artists to have a cultural festival here.

"People are also invited to the Board of Supervisor meetings," he quipped. "They're quite unique."

Newsom, a small businessman, pointed out that in the last 36 months, San Francisco has lost close to 60,000 jobs.

"The challenge is to get the economy moving again and I have a 16-point plan," he said. He also embraced GGBA's newly created Tourism Advisory Program and said the city needs to market itself not only to potential LGBT visitors, but also other cultural attractions and neighborhoods.

Gonzalez spoke about his opposition to the business tax and his support of a gross receipts tax.

"It really doesn't favor the little guy," he said of the business tax.

Alioto said she supports marketing the city as a destination for LGBT travelers, and said the city doesn't market itself very well.

"The Hotel Council ads are an insult to our own people," she said, referring to a series of billboards that were placed around town earlier this year that were critical of the homeless.

"We'll be promoting the 100th anniversary of the 1906 earthquake when I'm mayor in two years," she quipped.

Ribera said he's met with Hotel Council Executive Director Bob Begley many times.

"First, we have to clean up the homeless problem," Ribera said.

He added that he's "very, very proud" that San Francisco is an "open city" and that he "certainly encourages lesbian and gay tourists."

Regarding the economy, Denny said that the LGBT community "can't really isolate itself from the community" in terms of jobs.

"I think we're all in this together," he said.

He added that city government should only spend money on "streets, parks, sewer, police, fire, and clean elections and that's about it."

Reid said that "no politician in the world controls the economy" and that until the next economic boom "we're not going to create jobs." ▼

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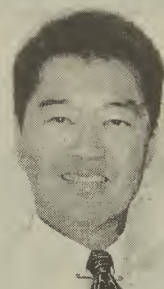
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## Candidates stand strong on state DP law

by Cynthia Laird

The major candidates for San Francisco mayor spoke out firmly in support of California's recently signed domestic partners law and vowed to fight efforts by two conservative state legislators to repeal it.

During a forum at the LGBT Community Center on Sunday, October 26, the candidates were asked by community center Executive Director Thom Lynch about AB205, the expansion of rights and responsibilities for state registered domestic partners that Governor Gray Davis signed into law at the center last month.

City Treasurer Susan Leal, an out lesbian, said she would do whatever it takes to fight the ballot referendum planned by state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale)

and state Assemblyman Ray Haynes (R-Riverside).

"I will be there on the front lines of our community," she said. "There's nothing I won't do in pushing, in fighting for, and retaining AB205."

Gay Supervisor Tom Ammiano also said he would fight for the law, which isn't scheduled to go into effect until 2005.

"Anything Pete Knight does, I'm against," Ammiano said to laughter from the audience.

Supervisor Gavin Newsom said he finds it "outrageous" that there is an effort to get a repeal of AB205 on the ballot.

"AB205 is long overdue," Newsom said. "It's one of the good things that happened due to the recall."

Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez said that one of the reasons he joined the Green Party

was its inclusiveness on same-sex issues.

Former Supervisor Angela Alioto said that she has long supported domestic partner laws.

"I would be the first to oppose it [a repeal] and I wouldn't want to be Arnold Schwarzenegger," she said, drawing laughter from the audience. "Can you imagine Arnold saying 'no' after all the groping?"

Former Police Chief Tony Ribera, the Republican in the race, also stated his support for the law and said he's supported domestic partnership "from the beginning." He said he would lobby Schwarzenegger on behalf of AB205.

Minor candidate Michael Denny argued that the government should stay out of the marriage business, while openly gay building contractor Jim Reid said he opposes the repeal of AB205. ▼





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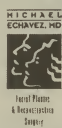
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## EBO

◀ page 1

enforcement from the HRC, and gave DPH exclusive control over its contracting with nonprofits.

"We have been betrayed," Sheehy told the committee at a special hearing on Monday. "This language effectively destroys the enforcement mechanism which has been key to the ordinance's success."

Sheehy also noted the carelessness in proposing legislation that directly conflicts with positions taken by the city; the City Attorney's office has been legally defending the EBO, as written, for years; the final court ruling against the remaining airline-backed lawsuits was just issued in July.

"The ink's not even dry on the last court decision," said Sheehy, adding that San Francisco's law, as written, has been credited with over 70 percent of the domestic partnership health benefits offered throughout the United States.

Sheehy's comments came moments after Daly's chief of staff, Bill Barnes, announced that the contracting language would be stricken from the charter amendment. Daly was not in attendance at the hearing, but the uproar prompted him to eliminate the controversial paragraph over the weekend.

"DPH would have had enforcement power, but opponents said that could have weakened the EBO — and that HRC would have been more committed to its enforcement — which I think is fair," Barnes acknowledged at the hearing, adding that Daly was a staunch supporter of the EBO and of gay rights in general. Barnes himself is an openly gay man, and Daly's own legislation this summer expanded recognition of domestic partners who registered outside of San Francisco.

Rules Committee member and Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, who had signed onto the amendment, publicly acknowledged that a mistake had been made.

"This is an ordinance which has been defended in the legal system ... we clearly should have been speaking [to the community]," he said.

Barnes agreed. "It was not our intent in any way to reduce protections."

## Insulting proposal

But it was because the proposal came from a progressive official's mistake, and not out of malice, that LGBT advocates found it so insulting; some simple inquiry on Daly's part would have re-

vealed that the EBO was specifically designed to avoid what he had proposed, they said.

"This shows an ignorance of the enforcement mechanisms. I don't know of a single city department that has the ability to enforce the EBO. When we wrote the law seven years ago it was very deliberate, and for a very good reason, because of the agencies that contract with DPH. And all that was just penciled out [by Daly]," said Sheehy, who added that Daly's additional intent of making the process easier for nonprofits could only have come from a place of privilege.

"I don't see why nonprofits are exempt in Daly's eyes, other than he's never faced discrimination because his partner is not lesbian or gay," said Sheehy.

A little homework on Daly's part also would have revealed that the EBO has already survived similar controversial attempts to decentralize its enforcement, said Sheehy.

In 1997, then-Supervisor Barbara Kaufman caused a similar uproar when she opposed giving sole implementation authority of the EBO to San Francisco's HRC. She later reversed her position.

Departments consistently complain that the several weeks it takes for HRC to verify compliance make the process too lengthy and bureaucratic, a notion that Stuart addressed at Monday's hearing.

"We do not believe it's a bureaucratic nightmare," said Stuart, "to make sure people have their human rights."

Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who was out of town Monday morning due to a lack of flights to the Bay Area, phoned the supervisors before the hearing to express his concern over Daly's proposal. An aide attended Monday's hearing to read a letter from Dufty to City Attorney Dennis Herrera.

"I am writing out of deep concern about provisions in Supervisor Chris Daly's proposed charter amendment related to the city health budget that would remove the Department of Public Health from compliance monitoring by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission," Dufty's letter began. "I understand that this provision could dramatically weaken enforcement of the city's equal benefits ordinance ... because of this development, I want to request that I be advised in writing should any future ordinance or charter amendment have the effect of weakening this landmark legislation."

Supervisor Tony Hall, the chair of the Rules Committee, also expressed concern over "taking a tremendous amount of oversight"

from public officials and transferring that power to a part-time health commission, but he said he was willing to rehear the matter when all of its edits were complete.

DPH Director Dr. Mitchell Katz was also at Monday's hearing, and he, too expressed support for the decision to eliminate the contracting language from Daly's proposal.

"I agree with the testimony," said Katz. "It has never been the goal for DPH to weaken the EBO. I think the [proposed revisions] would eliminate any fears that would have occurred."

Yet on Tuesday, October 28, Barnes told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the original idea to move EBO implementation from the HRC to the DPH came from the health department itself.

"The department head, Dr. Mitch Katz, is openly gay, so we didn't think anything of it," said Barnes.

Katz responded to the B.A.R. that it was actually his goal to remove HRC review only from nonprofits not subject to what is known as the "MBE/WBE" rules that affect minority owned and women owned businesses. Daly's inclusion of the EBO in the draft, he said, was simply an error.

"From my point of view, the issue is a misunderstanding among allies," said Katz. "There was never any goal to remove HRC review around EBO. What there was a goal to do was to remove the review on nonprofit contracts that are not affected by the MBE/WBE rules, because nonprofits are not owned by anyone, and not subject to those rules. I was very actively trying to remove that review because it doesn't change anything; they're all exempt from [MBE/WBE]. In the drafted language it did include the equal benefits ordinance but that was purely an error on everybody's part. I don't think anybody intended it. I very much feel that this is a communication mistake among allies."

Barnes added that not a single city department flagged the EBO issue before the draft was circulated. He said the fact that community input created a quick change proved that the process works. But he also said that HRC should, over time, consider streamlining the EBO compliance procedures to make them more time and cost effective.

According to Daly's submitted draft, his proposed charter amendment would be on the ballot for voter approval on March 2, 2004. The hearing on the revised amendment has been continued until the next Rules Committee meeting on November 3. ▼

## DA race

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time we're not going to make a big deal of it, but if we keep track of the individuals and see that they've been arrested in the same area camping three or four times, then we will prosecute."

Bundling charges, said Hallinan, ensures that a jury will find enough evidence for conviction, and "we have almost a 100 percent success rate with those types of cases," he said, adding that the same goes for prostitution or suspected solicitation.

"You can't go to trial with one arrest for standing in a short skirt on 22nd and Capp; you can say you were waiting for the bus. But if you get arrested four times in a short skirt on 22nd and Capp, well, then the jury will say, 'Okay, I understand this as a crime.'"

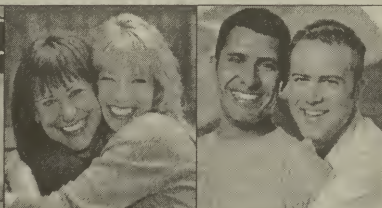
The problem, he said, is that police are increasingly refusing to arrest people because they know the D.A. will not charge them with crimes. But no arrest, said Hallinan, perpetuates the cycle; it means less of a record with which to prosecute.

"To help us is a big pain in the butt to them, and I understand that they want to get back on the street and enforce the law, but without these reports we can't operate effectively," said Hallinan.

Since his opponents like to cite statistics around his record, Hallinan offered the B.A.R. a few of his own, including a 60 percent drop in violent crime since he took office, and a crime recidivism rate of just 12 percent over three years for those who complete his diversion program (by comparison, people who receive jail or prison time have a 54 percent recidivism rate).

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# Got a case of the blues?

by Aaron J. Cohen

Is there anyone who hasn't felt sad, despondent, and hopeless at one point or another? These feelings are a natural and most often a healthy response to any unfortunate event in our lives such as the loss of a loved one or when a relationship or job comes to an end. All depressions, like the rest of our feelings, no matter what the cause, are produced by the flow of chemical messengers called neurotransmitters, which move from one nerve cell to another throughout the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) and the rest of the body. Sometimes these feelings don't stem from actual events in our lives, or they seem to be disproportionate to the actual event. It is in this type of situation that a trained professional such as a psychologist, a psychiatrist, or other therapist may be helpful in distinguishing the difference between a "depressed mood" and something

that is likely to last longer and/or cause a more noticeable disruption to your life and well-being. Take a look at the symptoms in the box below to see if you might be suffering from a serious or clinical depression.

Occasionally, these same symptoms of clinical depression can be preceded by, or immediately follow, periods of unexplained excitement (mania). These symptoms include overwhelming feelings of confidence, euphoria, a decreased need for sleep, racing thoughts, and inflated self-esteem. If this is the case, you may be suffering from a related condition known as manic depression, also known as bipolar disorder. Both clinical depression and bipolar disorder have been linked to specific genes and are most likely passed along families through the X chromosome. Clinical depression appears to affect more women than men

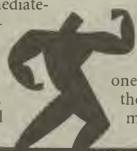
and bipolar disorder appears to affect men and women equally. If you think that these symptoms might apply to you, it's essential that you see a mental health professional for a proper diagnosis.

In the case of clinical depression, the mechanisms that control the release and flow of neurotransmitters, particularly one called serotonin, may not function properly. The choice to use one of the many effective therapies is a decision that must be made between you and your physician, preferably a psychiatrist.

There are some psychiatrists who specialize in psychopharmacology, the use of medications to treat physical conditions that result in distorted emotional responses. These conditions, which include clinical depression, are collectively referred to as affective disorders.

Most popular today are the medications in a class of drugs known as SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors). These include Zoloft, Paxil, Celexa, and Prozac, which was the first one in this class. They work by keeping the body from reabsorbing serotonin, making more of it available for those who may not have enough otherwise. Different medications are used in the treatment of bipolar disorder.

In selecting an antidepressant medication, a physician will consider your specific symptoms, individual medical history, and



## To Your Health

# Symptoms of clinical depression

The following is a rough definition for clinical or major depression. If you think these symptoms even possibly apply to you, please see a physician or other mental health professional to get some help.

Five (or more) of the following symptoms have been present during the same two-week period and represent a change from previous functioning; at least one of the symptoms is either (1) depressed mood or (2) loss of interest or pleasure.

- Depressed mood most of the day, nearly every day.
- Markedly diminished interest or pleasure in all, or almost all, activities most of the day, nearly every day.
- Significant weight loss when not dieting or weight gain (e.g., a change of more than 5 percent of body weight in a month), or decrease or increase in appetite nearly every day.
- Insomnia or hypersomnia (over sleeping) nearly every day.
- Physical agitation nearly every day (as observed by others, not just your impression).
- Fatigue or loss of energy nearly every day.
- Feelings of worthlessness or excessive or inappropriate guilt nearly every day.
- Diminished ability to think or concentrate, or indecisiveness, nearly every day.
- Recurrent thoughts of death (not just fear of dying), a suicide attempt, or recurrent thoughts of suicide, with or without a specific plan in mind.
- The symptoms cause significant distress or difficulties with social or work interactions.
- The symptoms are not a result of substance abuse, a prescribed medication, or a general medical condition.
- After the loss of a loved one, the symptoms persist for longer than 2 months. ▼

— Aaron J. Cohen

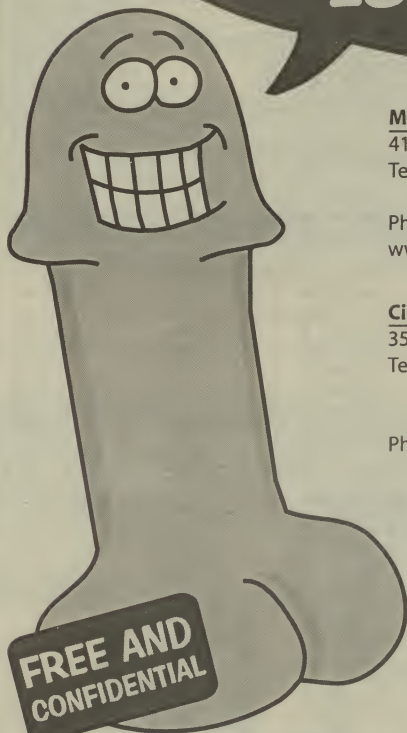
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physical makeup. Some SSRIs have been known to cause sexual side effects such as impotence or delayed ejaculation. However, new and improved medications are constantly being introduced. One of these, called Lexapro, is an updated version of Celexa, and is less likely to cause these problems. Wellbutrin, another antidepressant, is also unlikely to cause these effects and may be prescribed alone or added to other treatments. It often takes about six weeks before the medication can take effect so it's important to

stick with it and report back to the prescribing physician during this time. Your doctor is likely to fine-tune your treatment along the way until you receive the maximum benefit with the fewest side effects.

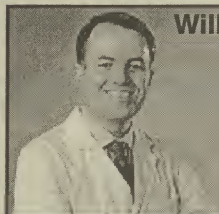
Ignorance surrounding depression and its biological origins has resulted in the misconception that depression is a sign of emotional weakness and that these medications are no more than a crutch. However, the fact that the pain experienced is emotional and not purely physical makes depression

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## Case of the blues

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sion no less real of an illness and no less worthy of serious treatment. Also, it's important to know that despite what you may have heard, these medications are not habit forming. For many people suffering from clinical depression, antidepressants have literally been lifesavers and taking them on an ongoing basis significantly improves the quality of their lives. Others may find that they only need to take them for a limited time.

Drugs — both prescribed and recreational — may also serve as triggers for clinical depression. Interferon, which is most often prescribed to treat hepatitis C but may also be used to treat KS (Kaposi's sarcoma), has been known to cause severe depression. In fact, for those individuals with a history of depression, it may be a good idea to start antidepressant medications before starting and during a course of interferon therapy.

Many people who suffer from depression turn to recreational drugs in an attempt to treat themselves, without necessarily being aware of it. They simply know that when they take these drugs, they feel better, at least in the short run. Easily available, alcohol is the most common drug used for this purpose. Unfortunately, despite its reputation as a relaxant, alcohol is very much a depressant and is almost guaranteed to worsen any clinical depression.

When drugs such as cocaine, speed, and ecstasy are taken, they cause a rush of neurotransmitters, which is what causes you to feel high. Unfortunately, the more these drugs are used, the more they deplete your normal supply of neurotransmitters. More drugs are then needed just to feel the high or even just to feel normal. Eventually, this creates a dependency, or even addiction to the drug. This rebound effect explains the depression many people feel after partying all weekend. For individuals who are already taking antidepressant medications, the use of recreational drugs, even in small amounts, can prevent these medications from working properly, allowing the depression to continue unnecessarily. If these people were truly able to recognize their dysfunction, far more people would turn to their doctor instead of their dealer.

While HIV does not in itself directly cause clinical depression (also known as major depression), it brings with it the stress of living with an incurable, potentially fatal illness. Making matters worse is the fact that HIV and HIV med-

ications can sometimes cause excess fat deposits or fat wasting (lipodystrophy), striking a serious blow to one's self-confidence.

Individuals who are depressed, by definition, are unmotivated, unsocial, and fatalistic. As a result, they are far less inclined to take a proactive approach to their HIV treatment. Unfortunately, anything less than 95 percent adherence may allow the HIV to mutate and create resistance to your medications. Some mutations can eliminate an entire class of drugs. The risk of resistance alone makes it essential that HIV-positive individuals actively seek treatment for their depression. It is estimated that somewhere between 25 to 45 percent of those with HIV also suffer from depression.

In addition to the risk of resistance, depression among those with HIV has also been associated with low immune response, quicker disease progression, decreased survival, and a lower quality of life. Part of this is due to the fact that depression often causes an overstimulation of our natural stress response. This response involves the release of the hormone, cortisol throughout our body and prolonged elevation of cortisol levels has been linked to lowered immune responses.

HIV-positive individuals who are taking ritonavir (Norvir) or indinavir (Crixivan), should make sure they notify their physician before beginning antidepressant medications. These HIV drugs can raise the level of SSRI antidepressants by two to three times their normal level. In addition, HIV-positive men who are suffering from depression should also have their testosterone levels checked. Aside from being responsible for sexual drive, low levels of testosterone have been associated with feelings of apathy, sadness, and increased anxiety. Simple testosterone supplements can bring quick relief from these symptoms and can be administered weekly by injection or daily in the form of a topical gel.

Depression may stem from genetic causes alone or it may just be a result of an inability to deal with life's many stresses; more often than not, the source of the problem is found in a combination of the two. In addition to seeing a psychiatrist, you might also want to seek the advice of a licensed therapist, particularly those trained in a social cognitive approach. These individuals are trained to help you identify patterns of behavior that may be responsible or contributing to your unhappiness. They can suggest realistic, practical techniques for dealing with life's everyday hardships.

There has long been a stigma attached to the use of psychiatrists and therapists in general. Personally, I can't understand why anyone would disapprove of treating a medical condition or learning new and more effective methods to find a greater happiness in your life. No one is born with all the knowledge they need to address every situation that might come up. Just as we call on an attorney because he/she has a greater knowledge of the law, there should be no hesitation to calling on the skills of a trained therapist to teach us new approaches to old problems.

Guilt and resistance to change are two of the biggest barriers in seeking treatment for depression. We tend to believe that the world is fair and that when bad things happen in life, we deserve it in some way. But for most of us, suffering is an intrinsic part of life. While we may not be able to avoid difficult situations, we can modify

the extent to which we suffer by choosing how we respond to a situation. Most often, rather than address the problem head on, we tend to perpetuate it. We keep it alive by replaying our hurts over and over again in our minds, magnifying the pain in the process. We repeat these memories with the hope, sometimes unconscious, that somehow it will change the situation. Making matters worse, guilt arises when we convince ourselves that we've made an irreparable mistake. Relief from suffering starts when we begin to realize that nothing in life is permanent. Volunteer work and public service can also keep you from dwelling on your own troubles and make you feel great, knowing that you're helping someone else who may be suffering as much, if not more than yourself.

Alternative approaches to the treatment of depression include the use of St. John's wort, an herb available at most drug stores. It has been shown to be effective in treating mild depression with relatively few side effects. However, it is not recommended to be used in conjunction with other antidepressants such as SSRIs or MAOIs (monoamine oxidase inhibitors), a medication which prevents the natural breakdown of neurotransmitters. In addition, St. John's wort should NOT be used if you are also taking antiviral medications for HIV, as it seriously lowers the level of these drugs in the bloodstream. Just because it doesn't require a prescription doesn't mean it can't have serious effects. Before you use St. John's wort, it would be best to consult with your physician.

Over 4,000 years old, acupuncture has been useful in treating a wide range of conditions and ail-

### Kurt Benoit Huebner

February 17, 1955 — September 20, 2003

Born in Hammond, Indiana, Kurt Huebner attended Butler University in Indianapolis. After receiving his law degree, he worked as a litigation attorney in Indianapolis, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Kurt is survived by his mother, sister, and three brothers. No services are planned.

### Marjorie Sheffield

1960 — 2003



Marjorie Sheffield died on September 8, two days before her forty-third birthday, after a year-long battle with breast cancer.

She is survived by her mother, Fran Sheffield of New Jersey; her father, Bob Sheffield of Sacramento; her brother Eric and sister-in-law Lisa and three nephews who live in New Jersey. She is also survived by longtime friends Sherry Anderson, Nancy Derthick, and Marilyn Pelerin.

A native of New York City, Marjorie had lived in San Francisco for many years before moving to Sacramento in 1998. She was a member of the Les-

bian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco for a long time and performed at many concerts.

Marjorie will always be remembered for her vivacious energy, her love of fine food and good wine, and her tremendous enjoyment of all beautiful things. She had fine taste in everything, and was a kind, loving and generous person. It will be very hard to imagine living in a world without Marjorie.

### OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

ments, including depression. For those individuals who may be reluctant to take medications, natural or otherwise, acupuncture may be an excellent starting point. Two other techniques, transcendental meditation and yoga, may also bring relief from stress and depression but they require that you make a serious commitment to learning and practicing the particular skills involved in order to receive their full benefit. In cases of mild depression, simple exercise may bring temporary relief by generating natural opiates, known as endorphins, in our brains.

It should be clear, even in this brief overview, that there is no one answer to treating depression. Finding an appropriate solution depends on the severity and source of the symptoms. Everyone has bad days but when these feelings continue without relief, or seem to come for no reason, it's time to take action. ▼

The information provided in this column is not intended as a substitute for medical advice. For more information go to [www.BestHealthAdvocate.com](http://www.BestHealthAdvocate.com).

## OK, making funeral plans in advance

isn't at the top of your to-do list. But it's far worse for everyone if you simply wait.

That's why so many people have joined the Neptune Society of Northern California. It's the easiest way to make sure your wishes are carried out. And membership provides access to a variety of beautiful and exclusive memorialization options. So if

"Actually, I'd rather have been cremated."

cremation is your choice, now is the time to do something about it. Call (800) 854-9264 to become a Neptune Society member. And have it your way.



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Grass Valley, FD-1608 • Novato, FD-1419 • Oakland, FD-1325 • Sacramento, FD-1335  
San Francisco, FD-1306 • Santa Rosa, FD-1334 • Stockton, FD-1502 • Walnut Creek, FD-1354

### Recommended sources

Gaylesta is the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Psychotherapist Association of the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. It is a referral service. Visit [www.gaylesta.org](http://www.gaylesta.org) or call 888-869-4993.

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association can assist in finding a gay psychiatrist. Visit [www.GLMA.org](http://www.GLMA.org) or call (415) 255-4547.

The AIDS Health Project provides mental health services for individuals with HIV/AIDS. Visit [www.ucsf-AHP.org](http://www.ucsf-AHP.org) or call (415) 476-3902.

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center is a well-established center for acupuncture with a focus on HIV-positive clients. Visit [www.QuanYinHealingArts.org](http://www.QuanYinHealingArts.org) or call (415) 861-4964.



# Reign of fire

by Jim Provenzano

Are the Southern California fires God's retribution for electing Arnold Schwarzenegger our governor?

A ridiculous hypothesis, of course, but it's no more absurd than our current situation. The Bushistas deny blocking 9/11 investigations, while actively doing so. Boeing military contracts have been proven to blatantly ignore protocols, and dozens of soldiers and Iraqi civilians and "leaders" are being killed each day in what has been absurdly described as a "victory."

I've withheld commenting on the sports angle of our eventual rule under the thumb of "Aw-node," because I wanted to be fair to the other hundreds of less muscular candidates, and not give them any press time either.

Even a liberal cynic like myself has to give Conan the Barbarian some credit. Schwarzenegger has won more bodybuilding titles than anyone else in the world, including seven Mr. Olympia titles, and is author of many other bodybuilding books, many of which are national best sellers.

That doesn't make him a good politician, despite a million opinions otherwise.

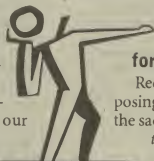
Every message he sends has all the consistency of a Janus, the two-faced creature of Greek mythology.

His presidential fitness program came from a man who posed stogie-chomping on the cover of *Cigar Aficionado*. He claims vast business knowledge, while his failed Planet Hollywood

restaurants have gone bankrupt. His adherents claim he's "gay-friendly," while he's vowed to keep marriage a straights-only deal.

A House Republican aide told the *Washington Post* that leaders in Congress would probably push for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in 2004 "if there is a confluence of court rulings and a groundswell of public opinion."

Still, some gay people think that, having posed nude a few times, Arnold likes us, he really, really likes us.



## Sports Complex

### Some dance to forget

Recent pictures of Arnold posing with cast members of the sadly canceled show *Battle Dome* prove that Arnie's at least friendly with a few model/actor types with a porn past they'd rather forget:

Christian Boeving and Chad Ullery.

Boeving, of fitness magazine, B-grade movie, and (clothed) *Playgirl* fame, is also a one-time porn cast member in the saucy *Posing Strap*. As Lance Bronson, he gets a little extra fluffing in a faux-vintage photo shoot.

Much speculation in online forums debate whether it is Boeving, but porn actor supreme Zack Spears has confirmed that his tongue did indeed delve deep into Boeving's then less-defined, yet well-muscled, posterior.

Ullery, who has graced the pages of *Colt* and *Playgirl*, and bottomed in a few porn videos, including *Behind the Bard Door*, is currently in the state of California, and denial. He recently acquired a lawyer, who, after a few insistent

and annoying phone calls to this publication's offices, made it clear that he did not perform in said videos and was allegedly the victim of a sexed up doppelganger.

I refused to recant my column about Ullery's diverse career, as it was based on lots of factual research. I did, however, request that an adult Web site which bought the article remove it from its archive, simply because it topped Google search results for my books.

Denial like that of Ullery's is part and parcel of an allegedly gay-friendly fitness behemoth of Schwarzenegger's fame.

When prolific author Jack Fritscher tried to sell Arnold memorabilia a few weeks ago, eBay promptly censored his listings, alleging that Fritscher's political statements on his online storefront were "inappropriate."

Fritscher is the author of *Some Dance To Remember*, a massively passionate novel of bodybuilders. Also a former lover of Robert Mapplethorpe, his personalized biography is only part of the Mapplethorpe legacy. Fritscher's recently sold archival items include photos of Schwarzenegger considered even more risqué than the frontal nude published in *Spy* magazine years ago.

The Mapplethorpe foundation is apparently keeping the naughty pics under wraps, proving that the Gropinator's censorious tentacles reach beyond the state line.

Meanwhile, the glut of auctions for another frontal pic resource, old copies of *After Dark* featuring Arnold, are going cheap.



Arnold gives Gilad that special touch

him as "the leader in gay military movies." Maybe there's still hope for all those closed army bases.

This interesting association inspires a dredging (or Drudge-ing?) of some other even more confusingly porny remnants of "Aw-node's" not too distant past.

Even his workout books have a closer relationship to the adult section of your local video store.

### Book of love

Take Arnold's *Bodybuilding for Men*, one of the scads of large-format exercise books with lots of black and white images of handsome men stretching and flexing in shorts about three sizes too small.

It's certainly not a rare collector's item, as copies can be bought online for as little as \$5, but it does have some amusing aspects.

"Illustrated with hundreds of photographs of Arnold and other top bodybuilders, *Arnold's Bodybuilding for Men* will help every man look great and feel terrific!" reads the jacket copy.

Amazon.com customer reviews put it more bluntly.

"Arnold's bodybuilding routine consists of training each body part three times per week twice a day, which would be extreme overtraining for anyone who is not taking steroids. His dietary recommendations are outdated and primitive."

A harbinger of his future state policies? Well, claiming to take no political contributions from insiders, and to "throw out politics as usual," then hiring former governor Pete "Let Los Angeles Burn" Wilson as his adviser, make for a regressive state fitness program.

Another reviewer says, "The pictures are of course dated. Nobody wears calf socks and skimpy shorts with white piping anymore, and the models are like normal folks, hairy, balding, shaped funny."

Actually, a closer look reveals the models to be a few very cute

young guys, including Israeli decathlon champion Gilad Janklowicz, who would later become a master in the aerobics video market, and the ESPN show *Bodies in Motion*, known for its scenic workout locales, and Gilad's equally scenic Lycra outfits.

But a more interesting model is the mustached gent that may be familiar to fans of Joe Gage's classic 1977 porn film, *El Paso Wrecking Corp.*

Mike Morris, whose erotic career was too shortlived (*Pieces of Eight* and *California Fox* and a *Colt* photo spread), shows how he got so flexible in Arnold's book, where he's clothed, but still quite sexy.

Morris' role in *El Paso* is as a father who greatly enjoys himself as he watches Fred Halsted fellate his son (Jared Benson). Will this be part of Arnold's "GOP Family Values" platform?

### Ho, tell California

Certainly, no one should be ashamed of an association with those in the erotic arts. Some of my most amusing friendships have been with professional sexual athletes.

But Log Cabin Club fitness enthusiasts are practically flipping with joy over what they perceive as a godsend of GOP "tolerance."

Perhaps El Schwarz will appoint Chi Chi LaRue as State Media Czar, Rip Colt as our Fitness Administrator, and Baressi will retrain school principals on revised disciplinary measures.

Meanwhile, in reality, the GOP's latest strategy to help you forget the economic collapse of our nation, the explosive failure of the Iraq occupation, Enron, Halliburton, Boeving, 9/11 cover-ups, Christine Todd Whitman and the EPA's utter fraud, and a rotting shit pile of other lies, once again pokes the GLBT community on a stick and prepares to roast us at their pep rally bonfire leading up to their Nuremberg, excuse me, political convention next year.

Conservabot gays remain delusional as ever. Their logic runs close to having a quickie with a closeted politician in a gym steam room, then expecting him vote in favor of gay marriage.

A politician's proximity to sex workers and porn does not ensure political sexual freedoms, nor does his former peak physical condition assure us of a healthy state.

What it does ensure is duplicity, mendacity, and a raging wildfire of absurdity yet to come. ▼

For more California jocks, check in at [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org).

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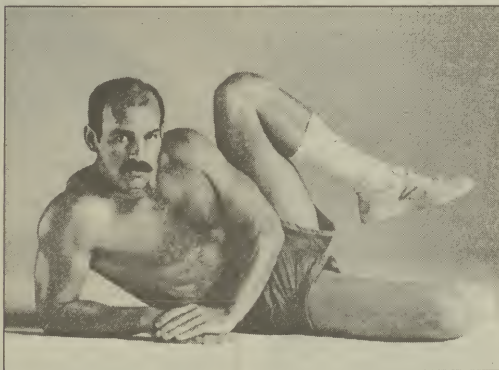
## SAGA North Ski & Snowboard Club

Next meeting Nov. 9, 6:00 pm  
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Mike Morris shows Arnold his best side



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Judge

◀ page 4

rights for gay families based on her opinion in the case. The stance she took could have threatened a large number of gay families that have used second-parent adoptions to protect their families.

"The way she gave her opinion made us a little bit uneasy of how she sees gay families," she said. "The way she said it [couples] have to be in some form of legal relationship. She is trying to force people into marriage for people to be able to be parents."

Her stand on other issues also disturbs many progressive groups. According to judicial watchers, Brown has taken positions against a wide array of civil rights issues, including affirmative action, reproductive rights, and discrimination claims. Unlike HRC's narrow focus on gay rights, other gay groups have taken a broader approach to their review of Brown's record and have found multiple reasons to be fearful of her being named to the D.C. circuit.

"We oppose her not only on the basis of gay issues but we also believe that lesbians happen to be women and she has an awful stand on women's rights. Gay people happen to be people of color and she has an awful position on civil rights," said Donayre. "We are black. We are Latino. We are Asian. The moment she attacks those groups, she is attacking the gay community too."

In addition to the adoption case, Brown also joined a unanimous California Supreme Court decision allowing the Boy Scouts to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. In that case, she wrote separately to argue that

private organizations should have very broad exclusions from civil rights laws.

In the 1998 case, *Curran v. Mount Diablo Council of the Boy Scouts of America*, Brown agreed with her fellow jurists that the Boy Scouts had a right to exclude gays from membership and require members to profess a belief in God. The case involved Timothy Curran, a former Eagle Scout whose application to become an assistant scoutmaster was rejected by the scout council, because he publicly stated that he was a homosexual. He had sought an injunction prohibiting the Boy Scouts from rejecting his application arguing that the Scouts' denial of his membership violated California's public accommodation statute (the Unruh Civil Rights Act), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The majority of the court concluded that Curran was not entitled to an injunction, and held that, given the organization's overall purpose and function, the Boy Scouts reasonably could not be found to be a "business establishment" whose membership decisions were subject to the Unruh Civil Rights Act. Brown went even further, writing that membership clubs or organizations (country clubs owned by and operated for the benefit of the members) should not be labeled as "business establishments."

In an e-mail to the B.A.R., Alliance for Justice Communications Director Julie Bernstein said, "Brown's interpretation of the act exemplifies hostility to civil rights protections as well as to the rights of homosexuals."

Yet Brown's position in another case was hailed by NCLR as a

landmark decision that would benefit gays and lesbians in custody battles. In that case the California court ruled that a man could win paternity and custody of a child he has cared for even if he is not the biological father and the mother objects.

While the ruling, handed down in 2002, did not directly address gay parents, Deborah Wald, an NCLR lawyer, told the *Los Angeles Times* that it "clearly establishes that people who know from day one that they aren't biological parents can through their conduct become parents. And that is huge."

In her ruling, Brown wrote that "a man does not lose his status as a presumed father by admitting he is not the biological father" and that if the court ruled otherwise, "this child will be rendered fatherless and homeless."

Brown concluded that in determining fatherhood "what is dispositive is the presumed father's relationship with and responsibility for the child."

"It is wonderful that courts are looking beyond strict, formulaic definitions of what constitutes a parent and are looking instead at who is important to the children," Wald said at the time.

Despite that ruling, Lerner cautioned that there is no reason to believe that Brown would be a strong supporter of gay rights. Brown remains one of the country's most far-right leaning jurists, she said.

"Is it possible to find someone more conservative than Janice Rogers Brown? Possibly, but they would have to search long and hard," said Lerner. "Kicking her upstairs to a court that has a national impact isn't going to help any of us." ▼

## Gay travel expo

◀ page 2

throughout the United States. In addition, it employs two full time staff members who specialize in the gay travel market.

When asked about Montreal's aggressive promotion of gay tourism, Reinow suggested that the city may have more resources. But Tourism Montreal's budget is \$13 million, \$2 million less than San Francisco's.

Roth cautioned that in his online survey, San Francisco has slipped behind New York and Las Vegas as being the most favored destination for gay travelers.

San Francisco Pride's executive director, Teddy Witherington, told the B.A.R. that he suspects that San Francisco has fallen behind Fort Lauderdale, Palm Springs,

and Provincetown as "gay holiday" destinations. Witherington said that although gay travelers may often visit big cities like New York, the primary focus of the trip is not the same as it would be in smaller cities that are flush with businesses that cater to gay travelers.

"If I go to Palm Springs, I'm not going to play golf," Witherington explained.

Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism was prominently represented at the Expo with a large table in front of a scenic backdrop depicting the desert resort city. The bureau's communications director, Jeff Hocker, told the B.A.R. that his city recognizes the gay market is an important boost to the economy. The city has 37 hotels that cater to gay men, the most of any North American city, he said, and also boasts two lesbian hotels. ▼

## LEGAL NOTICES

## STATEMENT FILE 0270363-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Irisescent, 3927 17th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daniel Nicholas Warth. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/01/2003.

OCT. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0270323-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rosie's, 3463 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Everardo Duenas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 30, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003.

OCT. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0269833-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Allfix Handy, 56 Seville Street, San Francisco, 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Alberto Benavides. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 10, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/10/2003.

OCT. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0270533-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: "El Faro" 82 First Street San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by an husband and wife, signed Alfredo Olguin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/08/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003.

OCT. 16, 23, NOV. 6, 13 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. RG03120354

In the Matter of the Application of Sheri Albertha Storey For change of Name. The application of Sheri Albertha Storey for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that heri Albertha Storey has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Shay Storey Skye. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 215 on the 20th day of January at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 16, 23, NOV. 6, 13 2003

## STATEMENT FILE 0270875-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Deborah Caperton Jewelry 226 Ellsworth St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110 This business is conducted by an individual, signed Deborah Caperton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/22/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/22/2003.

OCT.30 NOV. 6,13,20, 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0270336-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Shear Bliss, 1610 Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by a coporation, signed Andrew Lucido. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003.

OCT.30 NOV. 6,13,20, 2003

## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION

CASE NUMBER: FLS-92-048472 Upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by petitioner, and it satisfactorily appearing therefrom that the defendant, respondent, or citee Freddy Guardado, cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner specified in article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appearing from the verified complaint or petition that a good cause of action exists in this action in favor of the plaintiff, petitioner, or citee therein and against the action or that the party to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court or the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part in excluding such party from any interest in such property: NOW, on motion of Angela Hodgson, Petitioner(s), IT IS ORDERED that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon said defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in The Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant; that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication. Charlotte Walter Woolard, Judge of the Superior Court.

OCTOBER 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540987

In the Matter of the Application of Aujahnne Aniya Quarles For change of Name. The application of Aujahnne Aniya Quarles for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Aujahnne Aniya Quarles has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Aujahnne Aniya Glenn. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 215 on the 20th day of January at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 16, 23, NOV. 6, 13 2003

## STATEMENT FILE A-0270911-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: A Wedding to Remember, 621 Victoria Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Stephanie Hall. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/23/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/23/2003.

OCT.30 NOV. 6,13,20, 2003



## DA race

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over just one year's time).

Hallinan's goals for the office include moving all nonviolent drug crimes out of 850 Bryant so that violent cases can be tried within a year's time.

He would also like to improve police relations, although he said, "We don't get along all that badly. I even get along with [Chief Alex] Fagan and I've got his son on charges."

Hallinan received a lot of criticism for his handling of the now-infamous "Fajitagate" scandal whereby off-duty cops including Alex Fagan Jr. allegedly approached two men on Union Street and demanded their take-out dinner, then proceeded to beat them, calling one of them a "fag" (Hallinan has gone on record stating that he believes the incident was an antigay hate crime, regardless of the victim's actual sexuality). Hallinan's move to take the matter to the grand jury resulted in top-brass cover-up conspiracy indictments that were later overturned. But to this day he maintains that because the police were not forthcoming with information, he had no choice but to go to the grand jury.

"I've got a job which includes making cops respect the law as well as enforce it. If that makes them mad at me, that's tough luck," said Hallinan, adding that even in Fajitagate, his office eventually persevered; on Monday, October 27, a judge ruled there was enough evidence to try Fagan Jr., and two other officers involved, on felony assault charges.

## Bill Fazio

From the time Hallinan first took office in 1996, Fazio has been

unsatisfied with the D.A.'s office, and not just because he feels he should be there instead.

"The day Terence Hallinan was inaugurated, he swore to San Francisco he would be tough on violent criminals. Fourteen days later he plea-bargained light sentences for three vicious felons who had gang-raped two 14-year-old girls," Fazio said in a statement.

Fazio and Hallinan have run almost neck-and-neck for the office for years, and this time around, the polls are just as close. But with an increased visibility of quality of life crimes, and a general dissatisfaction among San Franciscans with how the city has been run, many believe this year may be Fazio's best chance yet.

On Thursday, October 23, Fazio unveiled his 15-point plan for running the district attorney's office "the right way." In addition to living in San Francisco, Fazio has pledged "an immediate and comprehensive management audit of all cases and positions" to bring accountability to the office.

"Six months after I've been in office I will start to check these off," said Fazio. "And if I've failed, I'll take responsibility. I won't blame the police department or others for my failures."

A data collection and case tracking system capable of sharing information with other agencies will be established, he said.

"Police are making arrests, and nobody is following through" said Fazio. "People are arrested, cases come in, and those people walk right back out the door."

In cases of police misconduct or public official corruption, he would "utilize the force of 50 investigators" to do the work, thereby freeing police officers to return to street duty.

Fazio would also assign a dis-

trict attorney to each police station. He would establish a triage system to unclog the misdemeanor court system.

He has pledged to "put an end to dangerous plea-bargains" that free violent offenders and to enforce a "no drop" policy on cases of domestic violence that would allow cases to proceed without victim testimony. He would implement the "Fatality Review Committee" as provided by law, to track domestic violence-related homicides and suicides.

Fazio's other ideas include mandatory training for police and assistant district attorneys; requiring that parents be involved with their children's sentencing and rehabilitation; proactive investigation of nursing home fraud and elder abuse; and "swift, firm, and fair" prosecution of quality of life crimes.

Fazio takes pride in his multicultural heritage — a family that speaks a variety of languages including Samoan, Tagalog, and Chinese dialects — and he has pledged that his office will mirror the diversity of San Francisco.

Like Harris, Fazio is fed up with the current state of the D.A.'s office, although both candidates said neither has discussed endorsing the other should a runoff occur.

"We haven't talked about it," said Fazio, "although I'd love her support."

Fazio is confident he has what it takes to win this race, and turn the city around.

"I'm a 20-year prosecutor with a 90 percent conviction rate. After years of total failure it's time for a total change," he said. "People are sick and tired of having to step over bodies, of not having parks they feel safe in. I lost by 900 votes last time. And I will win by 2,500 votes this time." ▼



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## LEGAL NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is Norman Yufai Ng & Saengkaeo Ng. The Applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 637 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca 94109. Type of License applied for: 41-ON- SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE  
OCT. 30, NOV. 6, 13, 2003

#### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 261755

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Rosie's Florist. Located at: 1155 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business was conducted by an individual signed Everardo Duenas. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: October 22, 2002.  
OCTOBER 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541019

In the Matter of the Application of Corey Glenn Randle For change of Name. The application of Corey Glenn Randle for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Corey Glenn Randle has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Dignan Phoenix Banes. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 9th day of December at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.  
OCT. 30, NOV. 6, 13, 20, 2003

**STATEMENT FILE A-0270957-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: KO Adventure Training, 457 43rd Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Keith Olmo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/24/2003.  
OCT.30 NOV. 6, 13, 20, 2003

#### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: A-0261549-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Dream Gift & Varieties. Located at: 347 Judah Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business was conducted by a husband and wife signed Leslie I. Tsang and Jason Tsang. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: October 11, 2002.  
OCTOBER 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

**STATEMENT FILE A-0270889-00**  
The following person(s) are doing business as: Presidio Wine Bunkers, 1430 Compton Road, San Francisco, Ca. 94129. This business is conducted by a coporation, signed Christo Kasaris. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/22/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/22/2003.  
OCT.30 NOV. 6, 13, 20, 2003

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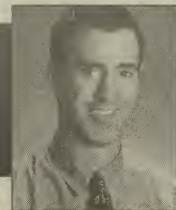
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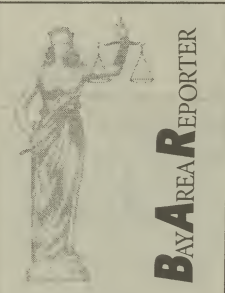
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## LEGAL NOTICES

## PROPERTY TAX - FIRST INSTALLMENT DUE

Treasurer Susan Leal reminds all San Francisco property owners that the first installment of the Secured Property Tax for 2003-2004 must be paid by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2003.

Bills were mailed to all San Francisco property owners on or before November 1st. If you own property in San Francisco County and you do not receive your bill by November 10th, please call Taxpayer Assistance at (415) 554-4400 to have one sent to you, visit the City Payment Center in City Hall Room 140, or look up and print your bill online at www.cityservices.sfgov.org.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION  
COME PARTICIPATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION'S BROWN BAG LUNCH TALKS at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 (second floor), Thursdays, Noon to 1:30 P.M.

The Department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks presented at no charge to the public and City staff. Bring your lunch; coffee and other drinks will be provided.

November 20, 2003 Electrical Safety in San Francisco Buildings  
Department of Building Inspection & Electrical Inspection Division

NOTE: Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions, to request materials hand out, or to call and speak with department staff. Please contact Laurence Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector, Technical Services Division at (415) 558-6205 for further information.

SAN FRANCISCO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (SFLAFCo) is scheduled to hold public hearings at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 14, 2003, and at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 21, 2003, in the Committee Room 263, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place on the Draft Report on the Electric Financial Feasibility Study. Written comments on the Draft Report will be accepted until December 5, 2003.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS(DPW)

DPW invites you to join the Adopt-A-Street Program! Adopt-A-Street is a partnership between the City and its merchants and residents. The program is simple: groups or individuals agree to adopt a street or an area and take responsibility for keeping it clean.

When you sign up for the program, you will receive some supplies, such as a broom, trash bags, and gloves from the DPW to fulfill your obligation. Additionally, the Department can provide you with graffiti removal supplies and/or matching paint to remove the graffiti in your neighborhood.

The Adopt-A-Street Program creates a cleaner more pleasant environment for everyone who lives, works and shops in adopted areas. The program strengthens community ties as neighbors and merchants work together to keep San Francisco clean. For more information, please call us at (415) 98-ADOPT or visit our Department of Public Works website at sfdpw.com. Together we can improve the cleanliness and therefore quality of life in San Francisco!

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

The Department of the Environment's mission is to improve, enhance and preserve the environment and promote San Francisco's long-term environmental sustainability. The Department of the Environment seeks volunteers and interns for helping in the office and in the field (415)554-6390



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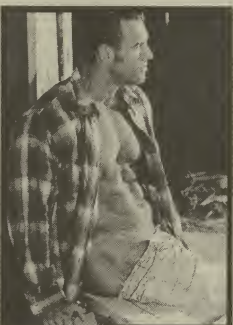
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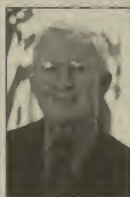
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**Camp arrives on the Silver Screen**  
Charles Busch meets movie stardom as washed-up chanteuse: 'Die Mommy Die.'  
page 37

**Studies in 3-D**  
Edgar Degas' wax & clay sculptures at the Legion.  
page 42



**Sock it to her!**  
'Laugh-In' alum JoAnne Worley in '20th Century.'  
page 35



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 44 • 30 October 2003

## Celluloid lust and independent vision

A scene from Scott Boswell's *One Fine Morning*, part of the *My So-Called Life* program

### Preview of the 2003 Film Arts Festival by David Lamble



**T**he 19th Film Arts Festival of Independent Cinema plays October 30 through November 2 at the Castro Theatre and the Roxie Cinema. Eight highlights follow.

**Thundercrack** Curt McDowell's singular vision never achieved the camp cachet of Warhol or Waters, and in this age of "gift-givers" and "barebackers," he is a tough sell for some. Exposing his own fantasies, the pursuit of hairy, macho men he called virgins ("They haven't experienced sex with a man.") McDowell loved having rough trade submit to his celluloid lust. "Ronnie was lying on his stomach in Washington Square Park when I went by on a bus; from the window I could see down the crack of his ass. He wasn't hustling, he wasn't gay, but he was streetwise."

Unique even for McDowell and conceived with his friend, underground filmmaking guru George Kuchar, *Thundercrack!* breaks all the rules. Narrative bumps its bootie with pure porn; melodrama cohabitates with bestiality (Kuchar has sex with a randy female gorilla); all genres are mocked; and amateur actors get down and dirty with the pros. Marlon Eaton does a comic impression of Blanche DuBois (who had the *curtain* critic crying foul) in an awful sexual spoof that suggests Russ Meyer trying to do Tennessee Williams.)

The plot has Eaton, so drunk she heaves before receiving a lady caller, her wig slipping off her skull and into the puke, going insane in a house that appears to be perched next to the Bates Motel, her dead husband's remains pickled in a jar in the basement.

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## Collaboratively yours

### Artists pair up in YBCA's 'Ten by Twenty' by Kevin Davis

**Y**erba Buena Center for the Arts brings back an honor roll of key artists from its first decade, pairing them with emerging artists of their own choosing in the visual-arts exhibit *Ten by Twenty*, part of the arts complex's 10th anniversary celebrations.

UC San Diego alumni Patty Chang and Paris-based Francois-Xavier Courreges present a moody meditation on partnership within space. Chang's *Happiness*, two 360-degree videos panning around an abandoned Tibetan home's ceremonial wedding hall, reveals a ceiling grid of light blue with dark blue crossbeams and ornate cut-glass doors, inverted to show walls and ceiling revolving upside-down around the viewer. The technique refers to the Chinese wedding tradition of flipping the words "double happiness."

Courreges' "Fusion," video installed in the same room, depicts a revolving burning candle in the shape of *Sesame Street* characters Bert and Ernie, holding aloft a cake inscribed, "Happy," within Pucci-patterned walls. Ernie's top erupts in a fierce blaze, almost extinguishing itself before setting Bert ablaze like a torch. Courreges cynically represents doomed love as a horror show through juvenile iconography.

"I liked how he worked with sentimentality," said Chang of Courreges, page 38 ►



Manuel Ocampo and Chris Oliveria, *Untitled* (2003)

Photo Credit

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



# Halloween: It's so 'That '70s Show'

The crack of the bat and other appendages

by Roberto Friedman

We don't know about you, but Out There doesn't think it's mere coincidence that two of the biggest red-letter days on the San Francisco calendar follow closely upon one other, **Halloween** and **Election Day**. In this town, both days are scary and full of spooky mystery (what will wash up in the Bay with the ballot boxes?) and peril. Why not consider consolidating them into one big horror holiday called **Hallelection Day**?

That way, if you were having trouble coming up with a costume, say, you could simply dress up like one of the mayoral candidates. Whip on a string of pearls and a tasteful black dress, for ex-



The cast of 1975's horror/sleaze epic *Thundercrack!* cower in fear.

ample, or apply a few tubs of hair gel as a primer. Everyone will get the joke, because we've all been haunted by the cast from *The Munsters* all campaign long.

No better time than Hal-

loween, either, to revisit a slice of classic San Francisco underground film, when the 19th Film Arts Festival of Independent Cinema, SF Cinematheque and Werepad present a rare revival of the horror/sleaze epic *Thundercrack!*, directed by the late **Curt McDowell** and written by underground film homeboy **George Kuchar**. Your Uncle Out There is old enough to remember when McDowell worked the ticket booth at the Roxie, and we saw *Thundercrack!* in our impressionable youth.

Filed in black & white on apparently no budget to speak of, *Thundercrack!*'s haunted house on the hill is home to some frightful obscenities, beginning with the matron of the manse, **Mrs. Gert Hammond** (Marion Eaton), who goes about the place in a vomit-covered fright-wig. Barely afflicted with the longeurs typical of films of the period, *Thundercrack!* is a real riot of sex horror, scary and sleazy in that special '70s way. (Friday night, 11 p.m. at the Roxie Cinema. Call 552-FILM.)

## Ball games

No one can believe that OT followed every inch of the **World Series** last week, but we sort of took the bait back when the **SF Giants** made the cut, and now we're hooked. At first, we liked televised baseball for the crispness and definition of the uniforms. Then we realized that team members were doing interesting things with their facial hair, goatees or pencil-thin sideburns. Next we admired batting stance and swing, and by then we were baseball junkies.

It's not like we really care which team wins, it's more like we root for individual players. We always enjoy the close-ups of the messages in finger-code playing out in the catcher's crotch: they speak volumes of encrypted information to us. But can anyone tell us, what kind of fish is a **Marlin**, anyway? We mean, have you ever seen one on a menu served up with lemon butter? Say, **Pudge Rodriguez** in truffle oil?

## Poets, know it

The benefit performance earlier this month for SF State's **Poetry Center and Archives**, which took place at the First Unitarian Church on Franklin St., was reportedly a hoot and a half. The centerpiece was San Francisco-based poet and **Jack Spicer** expert **Kevin Killian**'s for-the-occasion play *The Big Keep*, which detailed the pitfalls and pratfalls of arts funding. Three divas — poet **Jorie Graham** and movie stars **Ursula Andress** and **Lauren Bacall** — clawed their way across the stage. New York poet **Anne Waldman** took the cake as a stunningly imperious Bacall — all Attitude with a capital A, imperious in a black pantsuit and stunning orange-gold overjacket to boot. The poetry world turned out in force. And we heard that it looks like a play by legendary gay New York poet **Frank O'Hara** will be performed hereabouts soon. Stay tuned to the poetry grapevine.

## Blind alley

What **local chanteuse** is in hot water over at a local nonprofit agency for using the company e-mail system to promote her own appearances and stir up support for some mayoral candidates whilst bashing others? Somewhere over the rainbow, might unemployment loom? Developing.

This just in: **Triumph the Insult Comic Dog** has become a rapper to reckon with on his soon-to-be-released CD *Come Poop with Me*. In his take-no-prisoners patter, he sniffs "**Elton John**'s tush, just for all the history," and takes on **Snoop Dogg**: "There's room for only one dog, putz./And I can rap. Can you lick your own nuts?"

In the *NY Observer*'s in-depth feature "Triumph Sniffs a Hit," we're taken back to the international media incident which ensued during the 2002 MTV Awards show "when **Eminem**'s bodyguards knocked [Triumph mastermind **Robert Smigel**] script out of his hand as Triumph tried to get the rapper to have a conversation."

"By now, Triumph sounds al-

most conciliatory toward **Eminem**: "Slim Shady, why do you find me so scary?" he raps. "We're just two regular dudes who banged **Mariah Carey**."

Re the impending release of *Poop, Triumph* remarks, "I haven't felt this much pressure since **Maraduke** sat on my face." The album includes "Underage Bitchon," "**Benji's Queer**" and "Cats Are Cunts," on which late-night host **Conan O'Brien** sings along. We know some pussies who could scat right back.

## From bad to verse

It sure feels like another world war out there, even if it isn't officially WWII yet. Here's a blast from the past: Some enlightened folks are blaming Jews, who number a handful of millions worldwide, for all of their problems, saying Jews control the world. We remember these speeches in the original German, and you can say along with us, Never again!

The spirit of the times makes us think this must have been what WWI was like, global conflict fanned from the flames of prejudice and mass delusion. In the spirit of the *Zeitgeist*, we've been dipping into the biography of WWI soldier and poet **Siegfried Sassoon**, the second volume of which, subtitled *The Journey from the Trenches*, covers the period 1918-67 (by **Jean Moorcroft Wilson**; just published by Routledge). Sassoon was a bold warrior who risked a firing squad with his public protests against the war. After the Armistice, he embarked upon a series of affairs with some real heart-breakers: **Queen Victoria**'s handsome great-grandson **Prince Philipp of Hesse**; flamboyant actor **Ivor Novello**; and aesthete **Stephen Tennant**, the model for bright young thing **Sebastian Flyte** in *Brideshead Revisited*.

Sassoon's infatuation with **Novello** was unexpected, even counterintuitive. The actor first achieved fame writing the wartime song "Keep the Homefires Burning," about which SS remarked, "Someday I will kill the man who wrote, 'Keep the Homefires Burning.'" Still, he fell for the matinee idol hard; their affair sent him into an "unblinking little hell." Wilson gives us the skinny: "Spoilt by his doting mother and inordinately proud of his Italianate good looks, **Novello** deliberately cultivated a charm which concealed his essential egotism. Adored by men and women alike, he seems to have satisfied his sexual appetite with very little concern for the person involved."

Young aristocrat **Tennant** was even more self-loving; "his effeminate manner and provocative behavior attracted attention wherever he went." ST loved posing for the camera "in a leopard skin perching on rocks; as **Romeo** lying on his tomb in velvet doublet and pearls; in a black, shiny mackintosh with carefully made-up face.

"Whereas **Tennant** relished attracting attention to himself, **Sassoon** loathed it. He was already worried that their relationship would be talked about, and begged **Stephen** to be discreet. It was a proof of **Stephen**'s deep commitment that he agreed, since he would certainly have enjoyed flaunting their liaison for the ben-

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## Sam Harris lights up the Plush Room

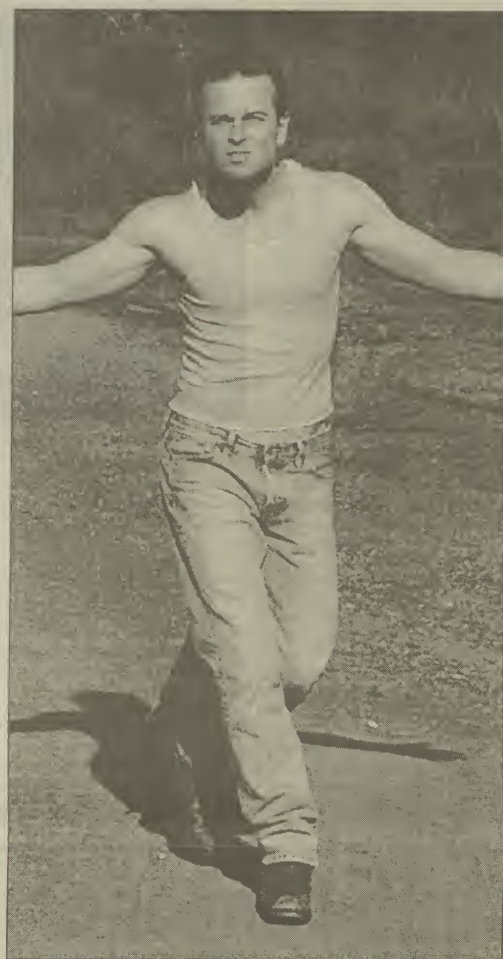
by Robert Julian

Sam Harris is one of the best male vocalists in show business. If you don't realize it when you sit down for his current show at the Plush Room, by the time he finishes his third number, "Time After Time," you'll be convinced. Cyndi Lauper had a big hit with this song, but Harris sells the emotion of the ballad much more convincingly.

Harris' current show, entitled *Sam*, offers a broad sweep of material that includes simple ballads, big show-stoppers, and comic parodies, all connected by a stage patter that lightly touches on the performer's past, present, and future. Global concerns and personal neuroses are given equal attention. It's somewhat surprising that the current show, at many points, recalls Bette Midler. Not the middle-brow, conservative *hausfrau* she has become, but the sharp, funny, bitchy raconteur Midler was 25 years ago, when she produced and starred in the most exciting live performances this reviewer has ever witnessed. Harris gets political, gets serious, gets silly, and feigns getting drunk, but the hits just keep on coming. The only questionable choice of the evening is the strange amalgam of brown and blond hair springing from the performer's head: think *The Muppets* meets *Knot's Landing*. Fortunately, there is no shortage of hairdressers in our town, and Harris is likely to meet more than a few before the end of his run.

Harris can belt out a song and make it ricochet off the back wall of the top balcony. He does a simple rendition of "Everyone's Gone to the Moon," then segues immediately into a very big version of "Bridge Over Troubled Water." And his forceful reinvention of "Over the Rainbow" is always a crowd favorite. Most remarkably, Harris has perfect pitch, extraordinary range, and flawless diction — the essential qualities that separate great singers from the merely good.

The big Broadway-style numbers are effective, but in a small venue like the Plush Room, bal-



Harris can belt out a song and make it ricochet off the back wall.

lads shine. For some time now, Harris has been singing Bonnie Raitt's "I Can't Make You Love Me" in live performance, and he includes it in the current show. It is a wonderful song, and Harris' rendition is a heartbreaker. As an encore, Harris offers the Lennon/McCartney classic "In My

Life," and the audience willingly sings along. *Sam* is a great show, from a great performer. ▼

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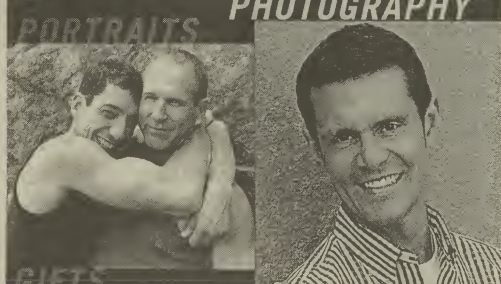


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## Brotherly love

'Topdog/Underdog' at the Curran Theatre

by Richard Dodds

The characters of *Topdog/Underdog* are nothing like me, and probably not like you, except for that nagging coil of humanity that both binds us and trips us up. In Suzan-Lori Parks' Pulitzer Prize-winning play, in a sharp two-city West Coast production, two desperate brothers display a need for family that could either be salvation or damnation.

Their father, who would later abandon them, named his sons Lincoln and Booth as a grim joke. Now they share a room in an unnamed city where younger brother Booth longs to learn from Lincoln the art of the sidewalk casino known as three-card monte.

Lincoln prefers the calmness of his new job putting on a fake beard, white face, and top hat to pose as a penny-arcade Abraham Lincoln, where customers can reenact the assassination. He still fights the temptation of the cards.

Parks' dialogue has an alchemy born on vernacular and grabbed language. "I stole and I stole generously," says Booth after a successful shoplifting spree. "I can't be worrying about the acts of miscellaneous strangers," says Lincoln when asked about the threat of a real assassin.

Lincoln is the more complex of the two characters, and Harold Perrineau steadily draws us into this man whose resignation is only skin-deep. There is bouncing ado-



Harold Perrineau and Larry Gilliard, Jr. in *Topdog/Underdog*: potent

lescent energy to Booth that Larry Gilliard, Jr. sustains in a performance both engaging and scarily hyper.

Perrineau and Gilliard are at their best, and the play at its most vivid, when the bantering kindles potent familial memories. "Maybe they got two new kids. Two boys, different than us though. Better," says Lincoln in a sad, warm moment between brothers.

Before *Topdog/Underdog*, Parks had a sturdy reputation in provocative playwriting. *Topdog* has been called her most "consumer-friendly" play, and it's true that the proceedings obey a common logic. Humor provides an-

other entry point, but you can always feel the danger behind the laughs in director George C. Wolfe's impressive recreation of his original New York production.

Even though the play is a march toward an inevitability, when the end arrives, it is shocking largely because it feels arbitrary. But *Topdog/Underdog* is never less than a compelling expression of a world where both cards and lives are stacked. ▼

*Topdog/Underdog* runs through Nov. 16 at the Curran Theatre. Tickets (\$35-\$68): 512-7770 or bestofbroadway-sf.com.

## Ennui anyone?

'Waiting for Godot' at the Geary Theater

by Richard Dodds

We all know about stage blood, but is there such a thing as stage drool? Copious amounts of saliva steadily poured from actor Frank Wood's gaping mouth as the mostly mute slave in *Waiting for Godot*. While Beckett's characters are pondering the meaninglessness of life, at least one audience member found himself a little too interested in the source of all that spittle.

ACT is presenting the classic existential farce in a production that probably won't bring many new adherents to the play. Those already appreciative of Beckett's masterwork could enjoy aspects of a return visit, but better memories may be needed.

Director Carey Perloff's production is certainly the longest *Godot* I've ever seen, clocking in at two hours and 45 minutes. That's a lot of waiting, even in a play about waiting. Bits of business that are funny in their first moments are stretched out. Draining stage waits are frequent. The idea, I think, is to suggest ennui without causing something akin to it.

The mismatched Gregory Wallace and Peter Frechette play the sad sacks who are forever waiting for the mysterious Godot. Wallace broadly plays Estragon as a clown of many pieces. He wrings his hands like Jack Benny, sobs like Bert Lahr, and waddles about like Burgess Meredith as the Penguin on TV's *Batman*. Frechette as



Gregory Wallace and Peter Frechette, in *Godot*, have a lotta waiting to do.

Vladimir, on the other hand, doesn't have the soul of a vaudevillian, and his performance is capable without being particularly memorable.

Occasionally, a master and his slave pass through the desolate landscape. Steven Anthony Jones, as Pozzo, bellows out orders to his slave Lucky, who, in Frank Wood's convincing performance, looks to be on the edge of death. Unfortunately, Wood, who won a Tony Award for *Sideman*, is mostly unintelligible in his big monologue of non sequiturs that here reads more long than amusing.

Perloff occasionally has her performers pierce the fourth wall,

peering into the audience as they make disparaging remarks about their surroundings. The device is repeated until it's not funny anymore. And it's a questionable tactic for Vladimir to nod in agreement when a member of the opening-night audience snorted at one of his lines. That line? "We're bored to death." ▼

*Waiting for Godot* will run at the Geary Theater through Nov. 16. Tickets are \$15-\$68. The Out with ACT performance and reception for LGBT audiences is on Nov. 5. Call 749-2228 or go to act-sf.org.



# The innocence in the carnal act

Philip Roth's 'The Human Stain' comes to film with Nicole Kidman

by David Lamble

**T**he *Human Stain*, director Robert Benton's film adapted from Philip Roth's novel, ends with two men eyeing each other warily while standing on a frozen lake. One of the men is a murderer, the other a writer and a friend of the victim. The men, Les Farley (Ed Harris, keeping the rage alive in his eyes) and Nathan Zuckerman (Gary Sinise), share a secret that Nathan plans to put in a book. That's if Les, who does a good impression of a deranged Vietnam War vet, lets him live long enough.

In an earlier and far more hopeful scene, some part of Nathan, whose recovery from prostate cancer surgery has left him with the dual humiliations of impotency and incontinence, is unfrozen when a man asks him to dance. That man, angry retired Classics professor Coleman Silk (Anthony Hopkins), with an explosive secret of his own, awakens something in Nathan.

Roth, perhaps the greatest living chronicler of sexually taboo corners of American life, here pulls his punches and gives the scene a surprising innocence, and then a quiet joy:

"On we danced. There was nothing overtly carnal in it, but because Coleman was wearing only his denim shorts and my hand rested easily on his warm

back as if it were the back of a dog or a horse, it wasn't entirely a mocking act. There was a semi-serious sincerity in his guiding me about on the stone floor, not to mention a thoughtless delight in just being alive."

In a recent interview, Benton said this passage helped convince him to film *The Human Stain*. "Because it's about intimacy, male intimacy, that's one of the things that made me love Coleman Silk and Zuckerman is that they're willing to be intimate, willing to have a physical relationship. In some sense, what Coleman Silk is able to do, as Nathan says in the book, is he dances him back to life."

This charged platonic moment is punctuated by a sudden confession from Coleman: "Nathan, I'm having an affair with a 34-year-old woman." The woman is Faunia Farley (Nicole Kidman), whose bone structure suggests the kind of upbringing that doesn't normally lead to being a college janitor or a part-time milkmaid for a pair of lesbian dairy farmers.

Kidman is startling as Faunia. It's as if nothing she's done has prepared us for this mixture of wounded vulnerability and volcanic rage. Kidman, without acting gimmicks or prosthetics, employing a flat American accent, gives us a broken woman who uses sex as a shield from intimacy. She feigns illiteracy to hide the impact of her fall from grace after



Kidman has great bone structure.

sexual molestation by her wealthy stepfather.

## Viagra all-star

As Nathan observes, the sudden, blinding passion of sex with Faunia ironically turns Coleman, who taught illiterate college freshmen the Classics, into an "Achilles on Viagra." But there is a dark side to late-blooming passion, as Coleman confides to Nathan, "To her, sex and betrayal are synonymous. Everything which can restore you can destroy you. I'm not afraid to die, Nathan."

Silk is a landmark role for Hopkins, who has recently made an almost Bela Lugosi-like mockery of his talent. Coleman is unhorsed from his position at the

provincial Athena College when a word he uses to describe two students missing from his undergraduate Greek Literature course is mistaken for a racial epithet. Betrayed by colleagues and a victim of the times (Summer 1998, the summer of Monica and Bill), Hopkins' Coleman roars like a wounded but still virile lion. It reminds us of his 1988 turn in *The Good Father*, as a rage-filled ad man who seeks to punish his young wife by helping another man win a child-custody battle with his lesbian spouse.

For today's audiences, the sexual politics of *The Human Stain* are likely to be far less unsettling than its unflinching depiction of the young Coleman's decision to pass as a white man — or, as he confides to his mother, to not be seen "as a Negro Classics professor," to divorce himself from his family; in effect, to kill his own mother.

Pivotal to the audience buying Coleman's decision while still respecting his character is the casting of a newcomer, bi-racial actor Wentworth Miller, as a young, light-skinned black man who defies his father's orders not to be a boxer; checks white on the form admitting him into the WWII Navy; and seduces a young white woman with boxing lessons, in one of the film's most electric moments. Aware of Roth's propensity to use powerful sex to get to character, Benton and screenwriter

Nicholas Meyer coyly use the boxing lessons as foreplay, while subtly reducing the carnal implications of the earlier male dancing.

## Brief on boxers

Director Benton insisted that the film could not have been made without Miller as the younger Coleman. When I pointed out the odd fact that both Hopkins and Miller appear to have boxer's noses, Benton retorted that it was vital that the novice Miller match Hopkins on screen, even though the two share no scenes. He added that you can't pair "a heavyweight with a lightweight," either in boxing or acting.

For years, my enjoyment of Benton's work (*Kramer vs. Kramer*, *Places in the Heart*) was given added spice by the prospect of this kind of chat about an important film. Little did I suspect that when we sat down, our talk would be peppered by the now almost nostalgic language of Monicaagate. Paraphrasing Meyer's script, which softens Roth's ribaldry, Benton quips, "After the end of communism, before the horrors of terrorism, America was obsessed with the blow job. It makes the Clinton era seem so innocent. It has a totally different effect than the effect that Roth intended. History, instead of make it seem foolish or stupid, has made it seem terribly innocent, which surprised me a lot. It's the law of unintended consequences." ▼

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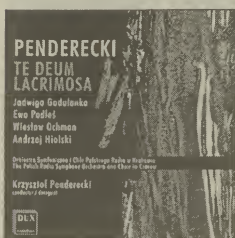


# Ewa Podles on her home turf

Great Polish contralto to perform at Herbst Theatre

by Jason Serinus

Two recent releases from Polish label DUX feature the great Polish contralto Ewa Podles singing on her home turf. The first, *Krzysztof Penderecki: Te Deum, Lacrimosa* (DUX), released



this year but recorded in March 1983 in the Polish Radio National Symphony Orchestra Concert Hall, features Podles (billed as a mezzo-soprano) joining three other soloists and the Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Choir in Cracow in two sacred choral works by the great Polish composer Penderecki. The second, *Ewa Podles, Garrick Ohlsson: Live* (DUX), recorded December 8, 2002, in the Concert Hall of the Warsaw Philharmonic, unites Podles with gay American pianist Garrick Ohlsson in a recital of songs by the Polish Fryderyk Chopin and the Russians Modest Mussorgsky and Sergey Rach-

maninov.

Vocal lovers who have anxiously awaited Podles' star turn in the twice-postponed New York Philharmonic debut of Penderecki's as-yet-unfinished *Phaedra* can now go back to the beginning of her career 20 years ago to get a less than sonically ideal sense of how she sounded when Penderecki conducted her in two of his sacred works. Both compositions, which premiered in 1980, joined a body of liturgical work composed over the past 35 years.

In a discussion conducted five years ago in Lyon, France, by Joel Kasow, Podles revealed that countertenors are not the only singers who suffer from gender confusion: "People don't know my type of voice, a true contralto. At the start of my career, people called me a mezzo-soprano, but I am not a mezzo like other mezzos, I am a contralto. The first prize I won was for 'Rare Voices.' And a true contralto is almost unknown in the 20th century. You must have a range of more than three octaves, high notes like a soprano, low notes like a real alto, as well as the technique to sing coloratura.

"If I sing with three voices, it's because it is impossible to sing over three octaves with the same voice. You can't sing a high C the same way you sing the low C three octaves down. The important people who decide don't know the kind of voice I have. What can we offer Mme. Podles? Rosina, per-

haps, Dalila, not sure because the voice is so masculine. I often hear that my chest notes are too forced, too heavy, too coarse, but that's the voice I was born with, *grâce à Dieu*."

## Expanse account

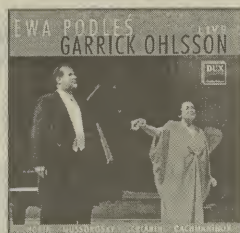
The voice we can make out on the 20-year-old, early digital performance is lighter, brighter, and less husky than what we hear now. While the raw power of Penderecki's *Te Deum* (contrasted with the far more ethereal *Lacrimosa*) seems ideal for Podles' vocal and emotional expanse, she is hardly the star of the recording. Rather, it is the music itself, definitively conducted by the composer, that is most imposing.

Imagine taking the loudest, most heart-wrenching declamations heard in the Mozart and Verdi Requiems, and translating

them into a late-20th-century musical language that replaces tonal prettiness with a terrible yet indescribably beautiful sense of awe and wonder. This gives you a hint of what Penderecki has to offer. Soloists are appropriately vibrant, and the chorus sings with great immediacy.

Podles' vocal recital with Chopin specialist Ohlsson cannot offer the vibrancy and color that distinguish Podles' recordings for Delos. What we do hear is *echt* Podles, her somewhat husky, powerful middle range (and slightly mealy-mouthed pronunciation) sandwiched by cavernous lows and sterling highs. Her conviction is total, making the best case possible for Chopin's frankly old-fashioned songs about a girl's desire, a handsome lad, wedding rings and the like.

The battles and suffering of



Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death* that form the centerpiece of the disc seem far more immediate. The remainder of the disc offers Ohlsson playing Scriabin *Etudes* and the duo performing a set of lovely Rachmaninoff songs. Taken as a whole, the disc whets the appetite for Podles' forthcoming San Francisco performance sponsored by Four Seasons Concerts, the Oakland organization that put her on the map in the US. ▼

Ewa Podles and pianist Ania Marchwinska will perform Wed., Nov. 5, 8 p.m., in SF's Herbst Theatre. Info: (510) 601-7919.

## Out There

◀ page 30

efit of the society gossips." And we know how they are! Bitchy old Edith Sitwell dubbed the lovers "the Old Earl and Little Lord Fauntleroy."

## Good hairdays

Democratic Presidential candidate John Edwards spokeswoman Jennifer Palmieri told *Us* magazine what actor Ashton

Kutcher, who is throwing a \$1,000-a-plate Edwards fundraiser, has in common with her boss: "These guys know what it's like to work really hard to make a living — and they have the best hair in their respective fields."

## Steel magnolia

Author Danielle Steel, whose Steel gallery in Laurel Heights had a glittering opening on a hot day earlier in October, was spotted perusing the rabbit warren of artists' spaces at Hunters Point during

Open Studios last Sunday, which was an equally sweltering afternoon.

Dressed down in a ponytail and denim jeans, she went almost unrecognized, except of course by Out There. Local artists featured at her gallery have reported hands-on tender loving care on the part of Steel, who has treated them to dinners out *en masse*, and has invited them all to at least one of her several homes. But does she treat them to any of her dozens of residential parking permits? ▼

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# Gay angling with JoAnne Worley

Aboard 'On the Twentieth Century' with Am. Mus. Theatre of San Jose

by Richard Dodds

JoAnne Worley was trying to come up with a gay angle for an angling reporter.

"I am easy to imitate," the comic actress started. "And I was thrown out of the glee club for being too gleeful, for being too gay, maybe. You might like that I helped Carol Channing put on her eyelashes at a benefit concert recently because her arm was in a sling."

She also liked the headline the last time she did an interview with the gay press. That was back when she supplied the voice for the wardrobe in Disney's animated *Beauty and the Beast*. That headline read: "JoAnne Worley Out of the Closet."

The *Laugh-In* alumna has a little closet in her bra from which she pulled a felt-tip pen plus other objects. "I keep my money and my credit cards in there, too," she said.

Worley had a real purse at this interview at a Chinese restaurant in a San Jose suburb, but it was occupied by a tiny dog that seemed content in hiding until, like on cue, there was a brief second-act appearance. Her name is Harmony, but Worley had to spell it out rather than risk prematurely summoning the tiny creature and causing a health-code fuss among the staff.

This big-time animal supporter is in her fourth appearance with the American Musical Theatre of San Jose. Unlike her previous headline performances here in *Annie*, *Mame*, and *Gypsy*, which she has done many times in many places, this will be her first venture aboard *On the Twentieth Century*. The 1978 Cy Coleman-Betty Comden-Adolph Green musical, set on a luxury liner, opens this weekend.

"It's interesting to do a new thing," she said of the rarely revived musical set in the 1930s. Worley is playing Mrs. Primrose, the role created by Imogene Coca, who agrees to finance a scheming impresario's new musical before she is revealed to be a religious fanatic without funds.

"Imogene Coca, of course, was an idol of mine," Worley said, "and I'm thrilled to be able to do a role that she created. Obviously, it was tailored for her, and I equate it to putting on somebody else's clothes, and switching around in them, and trying to get a fit that works for you. The character is a nut, and with that kind of number going for you, you have a lot of leeway." She's also happy because her friend, Broadway vet Judy Blazer, is playing the role Madeline Kahn created on Broadway.

Worley was part of the original *Laugh-In* ensemble of future stars who made their bows in 1968, and her wacky, outsized persona quickly caught on. But she left the show before the third year was over.

"My agents and managers saw the opportunity to make more money," she said. "We were being paid scale. It just wasn't worth it anymore, because my impact on the show had already been made."

If that impact hasn't been surpassed, Worley has worked steady

ly and often in theaters for the past three decades. "When people don't see you on television, they don't think you're working," she said. "Even if they see you on television, they still don't think you're working. Like, I just did a series of commercials for a nationwide furniture company, and people say, 'Oh, I love you on your commercial. So, what are you doing?'"

Worley's long personal union with actor Roger Perry came unglued a few years ago, and the topic is a raw nerve. She still lives near Los Angeles in Toluca

Lake, where Bob Hope was once her neighbor. "He said, 'Come by and borrow a cup of money sometime.' He gave me better than that because I did several of his shows, and he gave me a beautiful gold watch from Switzerland that says, 'JoAnne, thanks for the

memory."

Worley grew up in Indiana farm country, where she learned the power of provoking laughter. She landed a theatrical scholarship after high school, and her first professional roles were in musical revues in New York and Los Angeles. A tape of one of Worley's appearances on Merv Griffin's talk show found its way to *Laugh-In* creator George Schlatter, and she joined a company that included Lily Tomlin, Goldie Hahn, Henry Gibson and Arte Johnson, Judy Carne, and Ruth Buzzi.

Worley, an interview veteran, anticipated one common interview question before it was finished. "If you hadn't been a ...?" "Nothing," she said, with the word "performer" unnecessary. "I've always enjoyed entertaining people, and I'm lucky enough to be able to do that for a living."

*On the Twentieth Century* will run Oct. 31-Nov. 16 at San Jose

next page ►



Worley learned early and well the power of provoking laughter.

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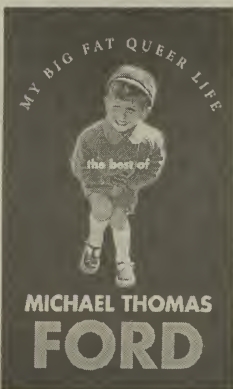


# Alec Baldwin still doesn't love him

by Jim Nawrocki

*My Big Fat Queer Life: The Best of Michael Thomas Ford* by Michael Thomas Ford; Alyson, \$13.95

Author Michael Thomas Ford has achieved quite a bit of success with his series of essay collections, most taken from his syndicated humor column *My Queer Life*. The series



began in 1998 with *Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me* and continued with, among others, *That's Mr. Faggot to You* and *It's Not Mean If It's True*. Ford has also written a novel, as well as several nonfiction works on topics such as AIDS and spirituality. Fans of his essays will be pleased with his new collection.

*My Big Fat Queer Life* includes seven new essays, a series called *My Life As a Dwarf* in which Ford ruminates on the qualities of each of Snow White's seven diminutive companions. The results aren't as predictable as one might expect. While Sleepy inspires an essay on sleep patterns and dreaming, Bashful's essay describes a visit to a strip club and becomes an examination of sensuality, and Happy's lays out a 10-step process for achieving fulfillment as a gay man.

Sprinkled among the dwarf essays are samplings from Ford's

previous collections, as well as a few other surprises. In deference to his fans, Ford includes such old favorites as "How Alec Baldwin Ruined My Life" and "Ah Choo! A Guide to the New Hankie Code." For each reprinted essay, Ford includes a brief note about how it came about and what reaction it received. With respect to the Baldwin essay, for example, he actually received "a nice note" from the handsome actor, but, though now divorced from Kim Basinger, Baldwin "still hasn't come calling."

Though Ford is known mostly for his humor, he includes a few

sobering essays in this collection. The most notable of these is "Unnatural Causes," in which he presents an eloquent exhortation of the Catholic Church for its treatment of gay priests and its handling of the child molestation crisis. This essay allows Ford to address a topic that seems dear to him, spirituality. He once contemplated entering the Episcopal seminary. He writes about the subject with authority and obvious passion. He also is mindful of the potential for humor. He addresses this in what he calls his "Baptist Bookends," the essays "Packing for

the Second Coming" and "The Crown of Heaven."

Ford courts controversy in the essay "My Contract on America: A Fantasy," and his introductory note to the piece provides an interesting history of how it made the rounds from one timid publisher to the next before finally seeing print. For the most part, though, Ford sticks with his formula of casting a satirical glance at the maddening quirks of gay life. From fag hags to porn to growing old, Ford has more than a few witty things to say, and he makes for an engaging read. ▼

## Our town

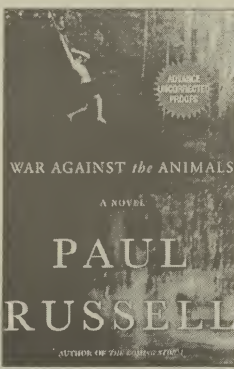
by Jim Nawrocki

*War Against the Animals* by Paul Russell; St. Martin's Press, \$24.95

There are three principal players in Paul Russell's new novel, *War Against the Animals*, but one could argue that they constitute only two main characters. There's Cameron, an HIV-positive gay man in his late 40s. And there are Jesse and Kyle, two brothers on the verge of adulthood who look so much like each other that they're sometimes mistaken for twins. Their physical resemblance seems to symbolize a kind of "secret sharer" relation-

ship between them. Jess and Kyle, alike in so many other ways, are quite different in temperament, almost as if they are halves who are only whole in relation to each other.

These three men inhabit the same town in upstate New York, but they live in markedly different worlds. Cameron, who has lived in New York City and has traveled extensively, is worldly, educated, and laden with the baggage of old friendships, lost loves, and the specter of HIV. Jesse and Kyle, who have never ventured far from their hometown, know about little more than their family, their jobs, and their girlfriends. While Cameron's circle includes scores of affluent, edu-



cated gay men, Jesse and Kyle's includes the working-class young men and women whose families have lived in the town for generations.

These two worlds are bound to collide, and they do, over the course of an eventful summer that begins with the death of Jesse and Kyle's father. The two brothers take over their father's business, doing light construction and contracting around town. Cameron hires them to rebuild a shed in the extensive garden that surrounds his home on the edge of town. The hunky young men attract Cameron's attention and become the subject of playful speculation within his circle. Jesse and Kyle's dealings with Cameron earn them their share of joking jabs from their friends.

The resentment between the local population and the "faggots"

who have started to move to town creates much of the tension in this novel. Kyle, who is slightly older than Jesse, is the more resentful, and the more vocal, of the two. Jesse, who idolizes his older brother for his confidence and swagger, is more reserved. Jesse strikes up a reluctant friendship with Cameron, and Kyle seizes upon this as an opportunity to take advantage of Cameron's wealth. Cameron, reeling from the breakup of a longterm relationship, is all too eager to welcome the companionship of the handsome young Jesse.

But Jesse has secrets of his own, and he undergoes the most significant transformation of the novel's characters. Russell tells a compelling story, but his prose seems to hamper the character development of Jesse. As carefully as he lays the groundwork for Jesse's transformation, the key moment seems to come about too abruptly. The revelations meant to clarify Jesse's development seem misplaced, and his conflicted nature comes across as imperfectly rendered. Still, Russell populates his fictional town with real, human characters. One feels equal sympathy for Cameron and Jesse as they meet their respective fates. *War Against the Animals* does not end happily. It is a novel of realism, rather than romanticism. ▼

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## Backstage

◀ previous page

Center for the Performing Arts. Call (888) 455-7469 or go to [www.amtsj.org](http://www.amtsj.org).

## Northward ho!

Productions at two South Bay theaters are taking the bold step of moving to downtown SF for commercial runs. This double transfer comes just weeks after a similar trek by TheatreWorks' *Bat Boy - the Musical* was announced and then canceled.

TheatreWorks is trying again, this time with Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*. Extended through Nov. 8 in Mountain View, director Robert Kelley's production will open a seven-week engagement on Nov. 20 at the Post Street Theatre (until recently Theatre on the Square). Call (650) 903-6000 for the current run and (415) 321-2900 for SF.

San Jose Rep's recent production of *Noises Off* will move to Marines Memorial Theatre on Nov. 22, also for a seven-week run. Richard Seyd directed the well-received production of Michael

Frayne's frantic backstage comedy. Tickets at (877) 771-6900.

## More 'Music'

Just as TheatreWorks' *A Little Night Music* is opening on Post Street, a smaller SF production of the musical will be finishing up its run at Goat Hall on Portrero Hill. Harriet March Page is directing the show for the Cabaret Opera Company, beginning its run on Nov. 7. Call 289-6877 or go to [www.goathall.org](http://www.goathall.org).

## Parallel lines

Theatre Rhino is inaugurating a parallel season for its smaller downstairs Studio theater with a work-in-progress play by Artistic Director John Fisher. *The Barbecue Murders* targets 1970s culture as it dramatizes an infamous 1975 Marin County homicide.

*The Barbecue Murders*, finishing its run on Nov. 1, is the first of five parallel productions promised this season for the Studio. For ticket info, call 861-5079 or go to [www.therhino.org](http://www.therhino.org). ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at [BARstage@aol.com](mailto:BARstage@aol.com).



# Angela's lashes

Stage vet Charles Busch goes glam in campy 'Die Mommie Die!'

by Matthew Kennedy

**P**arody is a delicate flower. Get it right and you've got *A Night at the Opera*. Get it wrong, indulge in peepee-caca hijinks, and you've got the worst of Mel Brooks. With *Die Mommie Die*, camp theater dragmeister-playwright Charles Busch brings his lampoonery to the screen for a shot at movie stardom. His inspiration is the sickly veneered melodramas of the '50s and '60s, with their runaway population of sleazebags, millionaires, goldiggers, psychos, gigolos, and trollops.

*Die Mommie Die* variously recalls *Valley of the Dolls*, *Dead Ringer*, *The Barefoot Contessa*, *The Carpetbaggers*, *The Oscar*, *With a Song in My Heart*, *Madame X*, *Return to Peyton Place*, and any other post-Golden Age masterpiece of bad taste. Ultimately, however, this modest divertissement is all about Busch.

It goes something like this: washed-up chanteuse Angela Adams (Busch) is trapped in a loveless Beverly Hills marriage to Stanley Kramer-style moviemaker Sol Sussman (Philip Baker Hall). To compound poor Angela's problems, she possesses all of the mothering instincts of Faye Dunaway. Her spoiled daughter Edith (Natasha Lyonne) hates her guts and engages in questionable horseplay with Daddy, while mentally unstable son Lance (the blond, boyish Stark Sand) might as well have *Horny Rebel Fag* stamped on his forehead. Angela finds dysfunctional satisfaction only in the arms of salami-donged Tony Parker (a seedy Jason Priestly). Add motivations for murder and a Scripture-quoting live-in domestic (Frances Conroy) to complete the criminal profile of



Natasha Lyonne, Frances Conroy, Stark Sand and Charles Busch in *Die Mommie Die!*

an extravagantly pathological upper-income show-biz family.

Due to its small budget, *Die Mommie Die* can't fully participate in the world it aims to send up. The cheesy rear-projections, slashes of light across Angela's eyes, and lip-synching are all appropriately fake, but first-time film director Mark Rucker doesn't use limited resources as cinematically as he might. We spend too much time at the Sussman house when we should be enjoying stock footage of the Riviera, dinner at Romanoff's, walks on the beach, moonlit balconies, and a Ross Hunter-style wallow in glamour. Instead, we get potting-shed trysts, a silly acid trip, and suppository jokes. Too bad *Die* wasn't shot for the widest of widescreens, to properly evoke the irresistible trash it unpersuasively mocks. A little more snipping in the editing

room was in order, too. A few scenes drag, and not in a good way.

#### Game faces

Much of the cast is game and offers some laugh-out-loud funny bits. Lyonne's Edith reveres Carol Lynley, which fairly summarizes who she most closely resembles in both looks and talent. Sand has an energetic and sincere off-kilter appeal. Priestly, looking worn at the edges, has little to do but be the object of desire for Angela and her

offspring. Conroy, alas, is misused. Though her character is integral to the plot, she is neither funny nor neurotic enough to matter. She does not suggest the great maids of the era, who were either "colored" (Juanita Moore in *Imitation of Life*, Maidie Norman in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane*) or Thelma Ritter. As for Hall, he classes up everything he touches. Hall is a devastatingly good actor, able to channel disease and anger on screen with such volatile theatricality that he ought to be given

his own production of *King Lear*.

Busch wrote *Die Mommie Die* for himself, and indeed he is the movie's *raison d'être*. As a consummate drag artiste in full command of Goddess technologies, he offers a "patented brand of bitchery" with few surprises. The clothes, fiberglass hair, jewels, make-up, gestures, and voice are just right. We get the neatly observed physical conventions of melodramas gone by — arms akimbo, the intercepted slap, perfume-bottle spritzes, gentle palms on the cheeks, and an imploring squeeze of the upper arms when someone feels "real" pain. Like the movie, Busch offers allusions rather than specifics, though there are moments that alternately suggest Susan Hayward, Ava Gardner, Lana Turner, and, of course, Bette and Joan.

All this glamorized femininity can't disguise a fact blindingly clear, that Charles Busch doesn't look like a woman. Acknowledgment of this in the movie, perhaps with a gender-identity joke or a lipstick-heavy kiss with Priestly, would have upped the laugh count. As is, we are left wondering if Busch takes it all a little too seriously. The late great Charles Pierce laughed at himself as often as he laughed at his targets. Busch has many one-liners at the ready, and his movie has moments of fun, but nowhere does he suggest that he knows and we know that he's being ridiculous. ▼

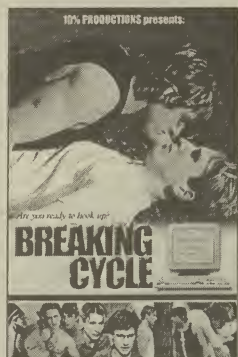
## Time to hit the showers

Two icky movies on DVD will make you feel dirty

by Matthew Kennedy

**B**reaking the Cycle Two young, gay would-be actors in New York are rooming together. Trouble starts when one pines for the other, who is preoccupied with scoring chat-room tricks. The stable one starts an online conversation with roomie, and they sort of fall in love over the keyboards. As if morphed into a Doris Day-Rock Hudson comedy, our boys then learn their cyber identities one at a time.

*Breaking the Cycle* is bad enough to make one pine for state-sponsored propaganda and restrictions to artistic expression. It's fairly ghastly what can arise when the untalented are given a videocamera. And what is the message here? Its silly neopuritanism smacks of those old educational films with titles like *Never Talk to Strangers* and *That Devil Marijuana*. On the surface it



seems "filmmaker" Dominick Brascia wants to stress that sexual promiscuity is unfulfilling, a worn-out lesson better delineated in just about every movie ever made. Any movie that attempts to stress sexual responsibility among

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## THE TEA ROOM THEATER

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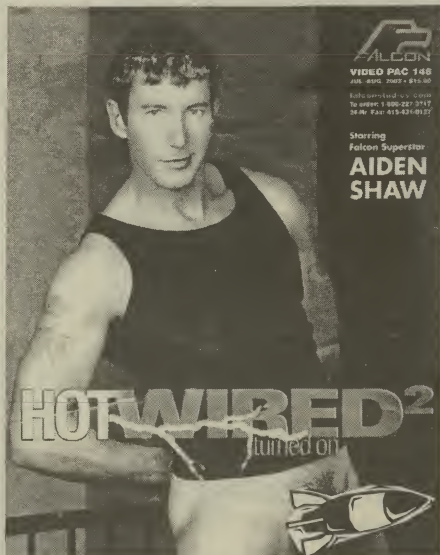
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# Art and activism

by Robert Julian

**At Work: The Art of California Labor** edited by Mark Dean Johnson; California Historical Society Press, \$35

Serving dual functions as both an exhibition catalog and a history of art reflecting the California labor movement, *At Work* serves both masters admirably, and elegantly. Editor Mark Dean Johnson assembles many arresting images and organizes his collection around a series of themes. Early California art tended to romanticize the efforts of laborers in the Golden State. But that initial representation of mythical California quickly morphed into something very different with the onset of the Depression and the migration of workers to California from both Mexico and the Dustbowl states.

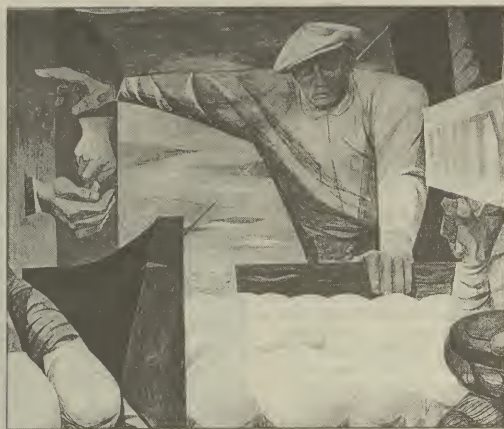
A strong and visible labor movement emerged from the Depression years, and its representation in paintings, posters, photography, and writing constitute the bulk of *At Work*. A special section of the book is devoted to the significant contributions of Chicano artists whose images, often harsh,

reflect the conditions of agricultural workers in California's Central Valley. Much of the art that emerged from the Depression was actually paid for by State and Federal programs like the Works Progress Administration (WPA). But artists like Dorothea Lange, Diego Rivera, and Anton Refregier were often perceived as biting the hand that fed them because their art reflected a reality the government did not want publicized. Allegations of communism, often true, dogged the labor movement and the artists who depicted it.

*At Work* is the result of a collaboration between unions, labor

councils, *Mother Jones*, and public radio stations. As such, Gray Brechin's agitprop foreword should come as no surprise. But Mark Dean Johnson's more balanced writing, and that of his collaborators, result in a consistently rewarding introduction to the people and forces that helped define a movement and a very specific artistic genre. ▼

**The At Work art exhibition continues at the California Historical Society, 678 Mission Street, through December 20. For more information, call (415) 357-1848.**



"Maritime and General Strike" (1946-48) by Anton Refregier.

## Ten by Twenty

◀ Arts cover

whom she met at the Yvon Lambert Gallery in Paris.

"Here Again" by "Mission School" members Alicia McCarthy and Ruby Neri attempts to translate 2-D imagery into 3-D form. Neri's sculpture explores a dialogue between exterior and interior structure, re-creating abstract grid drawings through woven string and steel rebar. McCarthy's trademark optimistic,

multi-hued checkered triangle motif echoes Russian Constructivists' Bolshevik-red stake wedged into the white sphere of privilege. Her triangles represent multiculti zones in a rough, geographic map of the future.

"As a kid I expressed my emotions visually and recognized new patterns I was drawn to," said McCarthy. "I think trusting yourself to find your own vocabulary that's true to yourself is the most important thing. Descriptions are relative."

### Home delivery

Barry McGee and Minnesota-based video/graffiti artist Josh Lazzano, 28, literally deliver the street to the center's entrance, in a tipped-over delivery truck billowing steam. Observers peer into the truck's back to find video monitors, some shattered, others airing loud traffic scenes and Asian commercials to the Chinese folk-strains of sitar. Coils of tangled wires are piled on the floor and hanging from above.

The two subversives draw on Wallace Berman's transistor radio assemblages, Bruce Conner's neo-Dadaist leanings and the whole '60s-funk, naive Beat-identified Rat Bastard Protective Society. They viscerally convey the city's glorious cacophony, the vibrancy of the ATA doc-making crowd and the attention-deficit dotcom cyberculture.

More graffiti-themed multimedia hijinks continue inside the center's front door. Latino skin-art figures in Lazzano's video promoting lithe, smooth-skinned, chest-puffing, bicep-flexing teenage Aztec yummies posing and lounging under trees while displaying gang tattoos. One pinches his nipple and smiles at the camera, converting even the most stubborn Philistine into an avant-garde art-lover.

An incessant audio recording of some functionary stridently drones on about graffiti's evidence



Pamela Vander Zwan and Carrie Mae Weems, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 2003

of society's breakdown. "Disorder occurs," bleats authority's voice. "It sends a message that this area is not being monitored. Use lawful means of making art." This is all the more ironically delicious considering Lazzano's 2000 arrest for vandalism while staging a display at the Deitch Projects gallery in Manhattan.

### Cargo plants

Robert Crouch and his former Art Institute instructor Nayland Blake invent six memoirist video installations. "He radically changed the direction of my work and life," Riverside native Crouch said of Blake. "He's one of those rare teachers that take on a guru-like authority. Phenomenal is a good word to describe him."

Crouch and Blake's installations respond to pop music selected mutually for each other: Guided By Voices' "How Loft Am I," Donna Summers' "I Feel Love,"

Miles Davis' "Ms. Mabry."

A cargo box reveals pots of toxic foxglove plants (from which we derive medicinal digitalis) under a simple sawhorse and lumber-plank pedestal. Rock-band T-shirts sewn together at the hem serve as a placemat for another video monitor. Gray and brown painter's shade-chips compose still another pedestal.

"I was inspired by modernist painting, Mondrian, Albers, and the cool color palettes of jazz record jackets," said Crouch, 34.

In other *Ten by Twenty* collaborations, Carrie Mae Weems and Pamela Vander Zwan examine racial identity in the context of an 1896 Supreme Court case through staged photographs. Ruben Ortiz Torres and Texas-based filmmaker Jimmy Mendiola present a video and photography exhibit exploring TexMex culture. Photographer/video artist Will Rogan and Victoria, BC sculpture professor Lucy Pullen collaborate on a photography and sculpture project using highly reflective fabric.

Filipino Manuel Ocampo and local painter Chris Oliveria team up for a painting project. Michael Loggins of Creativity Explored and conceptualist Josh Greene exchange letters on life and philosophy. Magician-actor-writer Ricky Jay and photographer Rosamond Purcell explore the process of decay in antique dice.

Concurrently, YBCA presents *Four in a Row*, a series of experimental, interdisciplinary and performance-based installations by Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Matmos, Claudia Tennyson and Bill Daniel.

*Ten by Twenty* runs through January 4, 2004, at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Info: (415) 978-2700, yerbabuenaarts.org. ▼

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Barry McGee, *Truck Installation* in Los Angeles, 2003



## DISCS

# Spooky and gay

## Some DVD choices for Halloween

by David Nahmod

In honor of Halloween, one of the holiest days on the gay calendar, we at the BAR are pleased to present some scary DVD releases that have a decided queer slant. Happy haunting!

**The Old Dark House** ('32) Kino, \$29.95 James Whale has two claims to fame, as the director of some of the finest horror films from the '30s, and as the first director in Hollywood to be black-listed for publicly coming out. In 1943, the director of *Frankenstein* ('31) and *Bride of Frankenstein* ('35) stated, as part of his self-outing: "I'm a great director. I don't have to put up with this shit." He never worked again.

**The Old Dark House** is the least seen of his classic horror films. Like much of his work, it is shot mainly in shadow and features characters of an ambiguous sexuality we can now recognize as gay.

When actress Lillian Bond speaks of her onscreen relationship with gay actor Charles Laughton, who plays her sugar daddy, she says: "He gives me money. He doesn't ask anything of me. He wants people to think he's ever so gay!" She simultaneously uses the word gay in its past and present meanings.

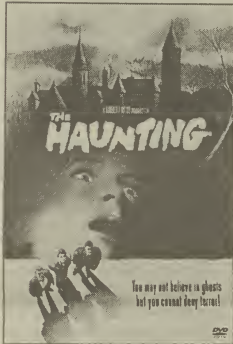
Virtually plotless, the film tells the tale of a group of travelers stranded on a dark and stormy night, and what happens to them at the old dark house where they seek refuge. The gay references are nonstop, bless Whale's heart!

On arrival, they are greeted by an effeminate man, who lisps, "My name is Femmi!" Horace Femm is played by Ernest Thesiger, a gay actor whose career was never affected by his openness about his sexuality.

When our travelers meet the Femm family patriarch, the actor is billed as John Dudgeon. It was, in fact, British stage actress Elspeth Dudgeon in male drag. Not even the cast and crew knew this until after the film was completed! This was Whale making a statement about gender and sexuality as best he could in the less-enlightened days of 1932.

There are separate audio commentary tracks from Whale biographer James Curtis and cast member Gloria Stuart. Director Curtis Harrington, who rescued this once-lost film from oblivion, appears for an on-camera interview.

PS: Whale's *Bride of Frankenstein*, the gayest and greatest of horror films, will screen at the Paramount Theatre in Oakland on Halloween night. Co-billed with *Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein* ('48), doors open at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$6.



**The Haunting** ('63) Warner, \$19.99 Director Robert Wise showed his great versatility when he directed this black & white ghost story between making the

Oscar-winning musicals *West Side Story* and *The Sound of Music*. A truly frightening film, *The Haunting* is a beautiful example of fear being created by what you can't see, unlike its abysmal '99 remake.

The film follows a group of psychic investigators who are living in a haunted house. Among them are Theo (Clare Bloom), a fun-loving lesbian. Theo is, to my knowledge, the first out, proud lesbian in a Hollywood studio film. Lesbian audiences must have been delighted by her, this being only one year after the self-loathing *The Children's Hour*.

Theo is attracted to her fellow psychic, the deeply repressed Nell (Julie Harris), who is also being wooed by the house's male ghost. That Theo's lesbianism is actually part of the story and not incidental makes the film years ahead of its time. In the remake, Theo was played by Catherine Zeta-Jones, who had a single throwaway line about being bisexual. She had no interest in Nell (Lili Taylor), thus eliminating the love triangle and all the story's tension.

A dark, creepy film of billowing curtains, whispers and shadows, *The Haunting* is the finest ghost story ever produced in Hollywood. You'll understand why the housekeeper says, "No one comes to Hill House during the night, in the dark." Letterboxed, with a superb commentary track featuring Robert Wise and his entire leading cast. The film's original trailer is also included.

**The Vampire Lovers** ('70) MGM, \$14.95 Polish-born Holocaust survivor Ingrid Pitt had a brief brush with movie stardom after the release of this film, a huge hit in its day. Produced by British horror specialists Hammer Films and based on Sheridan LeFanu's shocking (in its day) 1872 novel *Carmilla*, *The Vampire*



*Lovers* put a new twist on an old theme.

Pitt plays Countess Carmilla Karnstein, a 300-year-old vampire with a taste for young female flesh. Carmilla is out and proud. Though she goes to great lengths to hide her vampirism, she flirts openly with women, shocking behavior in the 1790s, the story's setting. Soon, several young girls are found dead, fang-marks on their breasts.

The period costumes and sets are quite good in this lavish film. There's plenty of thunder, lightning and mist-shrouded graveyards. The late Peter Cushing, who built a 30-year career acting in films of this type, is on hand as the trusty vampire-hunter.

Though beautiful and erotic, Ingrid Pitt was a 30-year-old woman playing a 17-year-old schoolgirl, Carmilla's age when she became a vampire. Her teenage victims are played by age-appropriate actresses, which may make some viewers uncomfortable.

MGM presents another of Pitt's films, *Countess Dracula* ('72), on this two-sided disc. Both films feature audio commentaries with Pitt and each film's director. Both theatrical trailers are also featured. ▼

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## Breaking Cycle

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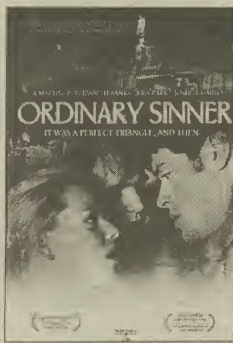
gay men, and then offers softcore sex scenes without acknowledgment of rubbers, has got its wires crossed.

The movie was taped on video for an apparent budget of \$1.50 through the Santa Monica-based 10% Productions, Inc. It ain't MGM, but it is a shameless warehouse for WalMart-quality gayabilia. After you enjoy *Breaking the Cycle*, you can watch a promo for 10% merchandise, with its fine selection of coffee mugs, calendars, and T-shirts, all featuring photos of well-muscled boy rumps. To prove 10% isn't just out to separate the gullible gay from his hard-earned yen, this noble corporation announces that some of its revenue goes to charity. That's nice, but good deeds don't beget good entertainment.

The whole enterprise makes one ask where gay men got a reputation for good taste. Let's not start with the holes in plausibility, or the falsely happy ending. Let's not start with the performances of the two leads, whose avowed real-life straightness is no excuse for devoutly unconvincing performances.

What is *Breaking the Cycle*? Hard to say. It fails as a polemic, as entertainment, as pornography soft or hard, as drama, as comedy, as cautionary tale, as mythology, and as slice-of-life. 10percent.com

Ordinary Sinner If you're

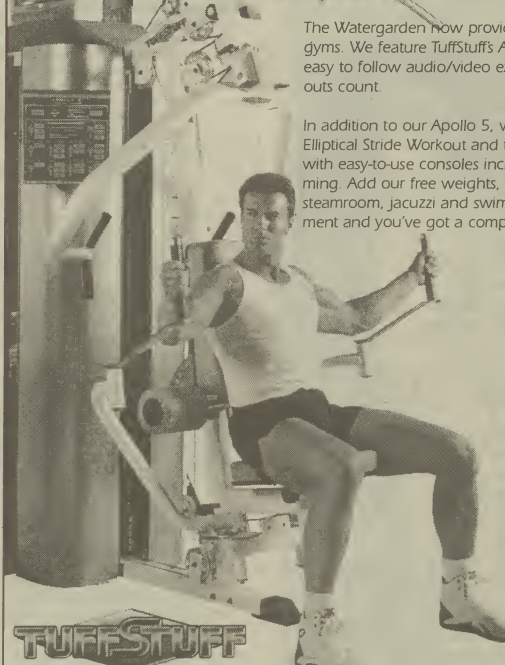


looking for a compelling examination of homosexuality and the modern church, might I suggest *The Boys of St. Vincent* or *Priest*? Might I also suggest you steer clear of *Ordinary Sinner*? The characters are so broadly drawn, and their self-pitying is so epic, that I couldn't decide whether to laugh, groan, or send my eyes heavenward for deliverance. There was plenty of opportunity to do all three.

The central character is Peter (Brendan P. Hines), a divinity student who returns to rural Vermont after he has lost the faith. He hasn't lost his emotionally unstable boyhood pal Alex (Kris Park) or his appreciation of female loveliness in the form of Rachel (a wasted Elizabeth Banks). There's trouble brewing when humorless, wooden Father Ed (humorless,

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Fri 31

### Halloween in the Castro

San Francisco's newly formed Entertainment Commission is restoring the spirit of Halloween past to this year's celebration which includes: a "no-booze/no-bashing" street party enclosure four times the size of previous years, two nightclub sponsored sound stages, a band stage, a star-studded main stage with costume contests and fabulous prizes, and installations from Bay Area artists in a clean-and-sober environment. This year, Halloween in the Castro begins with the "3rd Annual March of Light Parade" at 6pm. On the MAIN STAGE (Market & Castro): your ghostess with the mostress Hekina (Trannyhack) vamps and introduces entertainers Casey Collins, Anita Cocktail (anitacocktail.com), Moonlife (moonlife.com), AcidHousewife, Tom Orr, Bizarre Love Triangle (bizarreluvetriangle.net), Kitten On the Keys (suzameramsey.net), Ruby Toosday, Pippi Lovestocking, Jackie Beat, Kimmo, Vinsantos (vinsantos.net) Trixie Carr (trixiecar.com), GayGlo (gayglo.net), Ob-long (deliciousrecords.com), and Pushy (getpushy.com). On the LIVE STAGE (Market & Noel), hosted by the ultrafabulous Jean Spinoza: Clever Girl (8pm); Cookie Mongoloid (8:45); Blue Period (9:30); Madonna (10:15) and Superbooty (11pm). The musicians will be playing on gear donated by the Haight-Ashbury Music Center and local alternative rock station Live 105 (KITS) will be broadcasting that night from the stage. On the DANCE STAGE (Castro & 19th): Score! and DJs Gryder & Hughes present DJ Rolo (Fat Fridays), Blackstone (Faith), Anita Lofton, Gryder & Hughes and Neil Lewis. On the TANTRA DANCE STAGE (Market & Sanchez): Tantra cele-



Piki and Poko and their creators Mark Ewert and David Cutler open the Film Arts Fest's "Sunday Castro Marathon" at the Castro Theatre.

brates the tribal dance experience through cutting edge breakbeats and trance. Opening with a funky psy-house set from Psion of Friends and Family; Lorin and Liam Shy follow with a special Halloween tag team performance, mixing breakbeats with house and maybe some trance. Followed by psy-trance dance pioneers Dutch and KJ, spinning with an Indian/Middle Eastern/tribal-beat flavor. KJ continues to wow crowds and draws a huge queer following, formerly underground, now the biggest hit in town. Info: halloweensf.com

### 'Fright Night'

#### @ 'Midnight Mass'

"Midnight Mass" at Landmark's Bridge Theatre, hosted by the delicious Peaches Christ, screens Tom Holland's *Fright Night*, in which a teenage boy (William Ragsdale) discovers that his new neighbor (Chris Sarandon) is a vampire — but nobody will believe him! Co-starring Roddy McDowell as a washed-up horror movie star, plus Amanda Bearse (*Married With Children*) and Stephen Geoffreys. *Fright Night's* "Evil Ed" (Geoffreys) joins Peaches live on stage! Join



### 'Halloween with the Cockettes' @ The Center

It's Halloween Movie Night at The Center! Wear your most extravagant drag for "Halloween with the Cockettes!" This screening of rare films starring The Cockettes celebrates the flamboyant ensemble of hippies who performed in gender-bending drag and tons of glitter for legendary midnight performances at SF's Palace Theatre during the psychedelic '60s and '70s. The Palace documents the all-singing, all-dancing Halloween extravaganza "Les Ghouls," with elaborate costumes, rebellious sexuality, and exuberant chaos. 6pm: Elevator Girls in Bondage (1971), in which, from a seedy SoMa flophouse, elevator girl Maxine (Rumi) leads the workers' revolt through folk songs, Marxist maxims, and sexual anarchy. 7pm: "Life is a Cockette Cabaret!" hosted by Rumi, in which The Cockettes & friends model fabulous designer fashions by Bill Bowers and Mark Phillips! Plus: audience fashion show! Followed by more Cockettes films! Free admission for Center members. 1800 Market St. Info: 865-5555; gayfix@yahoo.com

### ShadowLight @ Julia Morgan Center, Berkeley

ShadowLight Productions presents "Wayang Bali: Dangerous Flavors," performed by Shadowmaster Larry Reed. An exquisite flower drifts down the river. She wants more. He'll get them. This ancient Hindu story, in which Bima battles and unknown brother and all the gods to bring flowers to his beloved, is drawn from the Mahabharata myth cycle and performed in cinema-scale with live music by Ganesha Sekar Jaya. In addition to the stunning display of lacy shadow figures on a 40-ft. screen, the audience will be able to watch Reed maneuver up to 40 puppets. \$15 (\$7 child/student/senior). 8pm. Also Nov. 1, plus 2pm Sun. Nov. 2. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Tix: 925-798-1300.

### David Drake's 'Son of Drakula' @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center and David Drake present the West Coast premiere of *Son of Drakula*, performed by Drake, co-directed by Kathleen Brant and Chuck Brown. A hilarious search for identity. Born David Drakula, he travels to Transylvania to trace his bloodline. \$28. Costume contest at 7:30pm. Show at 8pm. Free apple cider & Halloween candy. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcst.org

### Peck Peck Dance Ensemble @ Jon Sims Center

The Jon Sims Center presents AllSpace Artist in Residence the Peck Peck Dance Ensemble. Sean McMahon and Sarah Sass began working together at Ohio University (Athens) while pursuing degrees in modern dance. Sean moved to the Bay Area in 2001, followed by Sarah in 2002. They aim to develop distinct creative voices while playing with quirky movement amidst swirls of big dancing. \$7-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

the wicked fierce Halloween Party Blow-out: "Midnight Masquerade"! The biggest and bestest costume contest ever! Terrifying! Tix/info: 751-3213; www.peacheschrist.com

### Mutilated Mannequins

#### @ 'Cheap Trick... or Treat'

Jeff & Gary bring you "Cheap Trick... or Treat," the long-running queer party sensation. This will be the Queerest, Scariest Cheap Trick Party Ever! Featuring that shocker band The Mutilated Mannequins (with Mannequin Sharpe on keyboards & guitar; Mannequin Lamar on vox; Mannequin Loki on guitar), just out with the new metal/goth album *Lordship & Bondage*. The Mannequin motto: "In Darkness We're All Equally Lost." Best Costume Contests (scary & sexy) & fright surprises! As always, get off on electro/'80s/pop/rock/party music provided by DJs Big Red, Monkey-Boy, Adrian & the Mysterious D, and DJ Sysko. \$6; free 4+ 11pm. 10pm till 4am. The Stud Bar, 9th & Harrison. www.clubcheaptrick.com

### 'Meatball' @ Space 550

"Meatball: A Halloween Costume Jam-boree." Good. Evil. Fun. Hosted by Her Wickedness Hekina (Trannyhack). Opening acts: hot electroclash performances by Kennedy and Michael Soldier (Popperspray) and Los Angeles electroclash sensation Dirty Sanchez. Plus Jackie Beat, Mario Diaz, and DJ Barbeau. Dance all night to sounds by DJs Ellen Ferrato (sexy progressive house in the Main Room), Jim Hopkins (in Robot's Electro/Miami-Bass Breakbeat Room), and Pinky Ring (the upstairs electro-sausage DJ). Three contest categories: Sexy-slut; spooky-tranny; and glummy. First 25 guests in costume receive a Felix da Housecat "Cyberwhore" 12" giveaway compliments of Emperor Norton Felix's Bugged Out Mix CD out now! (see emperor-norton.com). \$10 door; free before 10:30pm. 10pm to 6am. 21 + w/ ID. 550 Barnevel (btwn Oakdale & Industrial). Info: www.space550.com

### MAX Costume Fundraiser

#### @ Atelier Studio Gallery

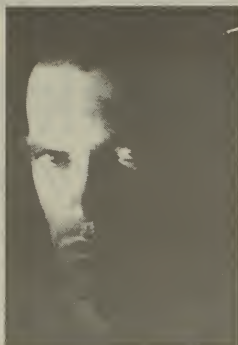
Start your Halloween Night festivities with the Men of MAX at their fabulous costume party fundraiser in the Castro benefiting the Jon Sims Center for the Arts. Complimentary appetizers & cocktails. 12pm. 2354 Market St. (at Castro). Tix/info: www.max-online.org

### 'Swing at 7' @ The Center

Queer Jitterbugs presents "Swing at 7," a Queer Swing nightclub at the LGBT Community Center. Practice your moves, prep for the monthly parties, or make your moves on the hep swing gals and guys! 7pm East Coast Swing Lesson; 7:30/8pm Swing dancing with two DJs. 1800 Market St. Info: 305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

### 'Traxylvania' @ Trax

Trax presents "Traxylvania," with vintage films by Super8Man and music by Les Vegas. Come in costume. Brain eating contest. No cover. 9pm-2am. 1437 Haight St. (btwn Masonic & Ashbury).



Luis Valls plays the title role in Erik Ehn's Noh-distilled "Frankenstein" at Theatre of Yugen/Noh Space. See Friday.

### Erik Ehn's 'Frankenstein' @ Theatre of Yugen/Noh Space

Opening night: Theatre of Yugen's 25th Anniversary Season presents a Noh-distilled *Frankenstein*, adapted and directed by Artistic Associate Erik Ehn, performed by Theatre of Yugen members and guest artists John Oglevee from Japan as the Monster, musicians Allen Whitman and Suki O'Kane, and Bay Area puppet artist Max. Ehn has pared down Mary Shelley's text in an interpretation that uses the intense, restrained and stylized acting of Noh to capture the constricted emotional tone and horror of the play. The production focuses on three main qualities: small; careful; frightening. \$15-\$20 sliding (\$13 student/senior). Previews Oct. 29 & 30. Plays Thu-Sat thru Nov. 22. 8pm all shows. Theatre of Yugen at Noh Space, 2640 Mariposa St. (Florida & Alameda). Tix/info: 621-7978; www.theatreofyugen.org

### The San Franciscans

#### @ Eagle Tavern

The San Franciscans present "A Gala Halloween Party" with live entertainment by Lucifer's, Out of Work, and Strip Club Band. Beer, soda & treats. Raffle to benefit Catherine's House (an HIV retreat). \$7 donation. 8pm-midnight. 12th & Harrison.

## Sat 1

### Domestic Partner

#### Registration @ Rainbow Community Center, Concord

The Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County sponsors a Domestic Partner Registration Drive. Forms provided and a notary public will be available. 12 noon-2pm. 2218 Willow Pass Rd., #500, Concord. Info: 925-692-0090; www.rainbowcc.org

### 'OrchidFest'

#### @ Hall of Flowers

The San Francisco Orchid Society holds its 2nd Annual OrchidFest on Saturday and Sunday, November 1st and 2nd at the Hall of Flowers in the County Fair Building at 9th and Lincoln Avenues. Featuring local, national, and international orchid nurseries, lectures and demonstrations for all, from the simply curious to the experienced cultist. OrchidFest is located adjacent to Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, world renowned for beauty and value as a major cultural resource. A short walk away is the Conservatory of Flowers, newly restored to perfection, featuring dramatic new displays and exhibits in a walk-through climate controlled environment. \$2 admission (all of which will go towards the San Francisco Orchid Society's new scholarship program with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo). Info: S.F. Orchid Society Hotline at (415) 665-2468.

## Sun 2

### Film Arts Fest: 'Piki & Poko' and more @ Castro Theatre

As part of the Film Arts Festival of Independent Cinema's "Sunday Castro Marathon," Frameline and ASIFA SF, the Bay Area's Animation Association, unleash the hit animated adventure *Piki and Poko: Adventures in Starland* by local astrological whiz kids and queer-art icons David Cutler and Mark Ewert. See your favorite Japanese superhero-girls projected the size of a three-story building! The anime-style series follows the dizzying adventures of Piki Matsumoto and Poko Shizumitsu, two teenage girls whose friendship is indestructible and whose psychic powers are so strong and in-sync that they alone can save Starland from destruction. A fabulous combination of psychic insights, astrological symbolism, cunning villains, kick-ass heroes, irony and sincerity all mixed up, and surreal, living landscapes. Cutler says the 14 original episodes will be screened, and hints at a secret stash of never-before-seen material; plus there'll be a brand spanking new P&P episode preceding another of tonight's films. Cutler and Ewert are shopping a cable-TV version of the show in LA, so producers keep an eye out! Special P&P t-shirts will be for sale.

## Calendare by Mark Mardon

## Trick with GayGlo!

The other night my rock star friend Moon Trent (Brown-Star, Pale, Visitors Kimberly), who seems to know everybody in the local queer arts scene, introduced me some of his Duboce Triangle neighbors, starting with Rumi and Bill Bowers in an art filled Victorian seemingly out of *Tales of the City*. In that lovely space, I got to meet a couple of great gents and preview a bit of what's in store for folks this Halloween at the event they're putting on this haunted Friday at the SF LGBT Community Center. The Cockettes' blow-out Halloween party could be the sleeper party that tops everything else being offered.

Rumi himself will preside over The Center events, including a screening of old Cockettes films, plus a fashion showing of Bower's cool designer wear. Bower's richly embroidered/decorated jackets with 9/11 themes ought to capture plenty of attention. And Rumi is a total gem, who obviously knows every important queer artist in the land, many of whom will be present to salute the Cockettes. Catch them while you can! Check the Friday O&A listing for more details.

Next up on my personalized Moon Trent neighborhood tour were the boys of GayGlo — Brian Busta and Curtis Canaday — renowned for putting on black-light shows in the buff in the window of their apartment across the street from Cafe Flore. For ten years these artists have been provoking passers-by with colorful psychedelic performances, starting with an impromptu art installation in the third story window of an 18th and Castro flat. A nude dancer with day-glo body paint performed with props in the window. From there the GayGlo boys became legends in Queersville.

On Halloween night in the Castro, look for the body-painted, black-light troupe (including Moon himself) as they perform a terrifying "Trick & Treat Musical" on the Main Stage. They're expected to go on at around 8:45pm; check www.halloweensf.com or GayGlo.net for updates.

The GayGlo folks have a wild, *Beach Blanket Babylon* flair, employing giant glowing hats and wild cut-out props. In the clean-and-sober atmosphere of the Castro on Halloween night, if it's a glow you're looking for, you'll find it only at GayGlo! ▼



Brian Busta of GayGlo on the Main Stage at Halloween in the Castro.





Mutilated Mannequins take over "Cheap Trick...or Treat" at the Stud to play the darkest metal/monster-mash Halloween ever! See Friday.

P&P opens the marathon at 11am. Also screening: A Great Wonder by Kim Shelton (noon); the Kidnapping of Ingrid Betancourt by Karin Hayes and Victoria Bruce (2pm); American Dancer by Adam Ballancey (West Coast Premiere; 4pm); Greendale by Neil Young & Bernard Shakey (SF Premiere; Benefit for Film Arts Foundation & Bridge School; 6pm); Double Dare by Amanda Micheli (action, packed doc about two Hollywood stuntwomen, Jeannie Epper and Zoë Bell, who will appear in person; 8:30pm); and Sound of Spirit by Joslyn Rose Lyons (10:30pm). All tit 5 bucks a pop. Info: www.filmarts.org

#### 'Day of the Dead Service' @ Civic Center Plaza

Temenos Catholic Worker and Father Christian River Damien Sims, M.Div. D.S.T. present "Day of the Dead Memorial Service: A Dramatic and Moving Community Prayer Service/Rally in Memory of People Who Have Died of Drug-Related Causes." Speaker: The Rev. Edwin Sanders, II. 2-4pm. Info: 305-2124; www.temenos.org

#### 'K'vetsh'

@ Sadie's Flying Elephant  
K'vetsh queer spoken word event (first Sunday of every month). Tonight: Reginald Lamar (Mutilated Mannequins) and TBA. Plus open mic. Hosted by Lynn Breedlove and Tara Jepsen. Sign-ups at 7:30; show at 8pm. \$1-\$3 donation. Sadie's Flying Elephant bar, 491 Potrero (on the corner of Mariposa).

#### Fundraiser for The Center @ Aunt Charlie's

Felicia Elizondo and Aunt Charlie's Show Lounge host a fundraiser for the LGBT Community Center. Food at 4pm; show at 5pm. Free admission! Raffle & prizes. 133 Turk St. (btwn Taylor & Jones). Info: 441-2922.

## Mon 3

#### Rainbow Community Center @ Chevy's, Pleasant Hill

It's "RCC night at Chevy's Fresh-Mex!" Patrons can designate proceeds of their dinner bill to the Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County. Come dine anytime from 5-9:30pm. Located at 650 Ellimwood Way, Pleasant Hill. Call 925-685-6651. Info: www.rainbowcc.org

## Tue 4

#### 'Viva Variety 35'

#### @ Burial Clay Theatre

'Make It So' Productions presents "Viva Variety 35," the latest edition of the variety show hosted by Steve Murray, the Ed Sullivan of our time, featuring the best of queer and queer-friendly entertainment. This month's show is a benefit for Community United Against Violence (CUAV). Tonight's stellar line-up: Maureen McVerry (vocalist), Seth Montfort (pianist), Dianne Amos (comedy), Frances8 (indie music), Bridget Schwartz (comedy), Robert Strong (magic), Kitty Kitty Bang Bang (dance), Velocity Circus (physical circus), and Kitty Rose (country music). \$15 in advance (credit card, check or cash prior to showdate). 8pm. Burial Clay Theatre 762 Fulton St. (at Webster; free parking available). Tix: 415-863-0741 ext. #2; www.makeitsoproductions.org

#### 'Queer Torah Study' @ Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

"Queer Torah Study Project." Explore Torah together from a queer perspective.

The primary questions will be: "How do we read the Torah as queer people? What does the Torah say to us as queer people? Is it possible to find our voice in Torah, as queer Jews?" Sessions will include small group activities, chevuta partners and creating/writing our own Torah commentaries. Includes guest speakers from various Jewish/queer backgrounds. Cost: \$36 members, \$72 nonmembers for series through December 16, or \$5 for single sessions. Tuesdays, Nov. 4, 11, 18 and 25, Dec. 2, 9 & 16. 7-9pm. 290 Dolores St. (at 16th). Info: 861-6932; www.shaarzahav.org

#### 'GenderEnders' @ Cherry Bar

World debut: "GenderEnders," a monthly series featuring transgendered, intersexed and/or genderqueer artists and a queer performance open mic. All genders, sexualities, and identities welcome. The debut GenderEnders show will feature Lynn Breedlove (author of Godspeed and lead singer for Tribe 8) and Storm Florez (a singer-songwriter who blends folk-rock style with dreamy tales of love, death, romance, and woe). In addition to the featured performers, every GenderEnders show hosts a "community bulletin board" and a queer performance open mic. Bring announcements, music, spoken word, stand-up comedy, performance art, or any other type of performance. MC'd by transgendered musician and spoken word artist Julia Serano (www.juliaserano.com). \$4-\$7 sliding. 8:30pm. Cherry Bar, 917 Folsom St. Info: www.genderenders.com.

## Wed 5

#### 'R&D: 20 Years/20 Artists' @ The LAB

Ongoing exhibition: "R&D: 20 Years/20 Artists," curated by beloved art critic/curator Glen Helfand, featuring works by D-L Alvarez, Rebeca Bollinger, Julie Blankenship, Mark Brest Van Kempen, Nao Bustamante, Didi Dunphy, Peter Edlund, Cliff Hengst, Su Chen Hung, Chris Komater, Malka Lehmann, Scott MacLeod, Aaron Noble, Rex Ray and Jody Zellen. These artists have all taken part in The LAB's laboratory for new artists working in experimental arenas, in static and dynamic media — sound, performance, and video, as well as artist talks. Wed-Sat, 1-6pm. 2948 16th St. Info: 864-8855; www.thelab.org

#### 'Prehab' @ Cherry Bar

"Prehab," a Debaucherous Deathrock club! Demented DJs spin Deathrock, Post Punk, New Wave and some good ol' TRASH! Kinley Go-Go dancin' girls, a cigarette girl with goodies other than cigarettes (hee hee), visuals, and SLEAZY drink specials (you don't even wanna know!) Fallen Beauty Queens, Gender Fucks, Boot Lickers, Mall Goth Whores, Bitches Who Talk Back, Sassyfrass Asses, Deathrock Doomers and Freaks of Nature! DJs Aaron Detroit, Klonoym, T-Monster. First Wednesday of every month. \$3 (free b4 10pm). 9pm-2am. Cherry Bar, 5th & Folsom (the old CW Saloon)

## Thu 6

#### Gavin Newsom @ 'Ba-da-Bingo!'

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence present "Ba-da-Bingo!" the hit event organized by Bingo Co-Chairmans Sister Betty Does, LNM, and Sister Edith MyFlesh. Tonight's special: It's the Sister Dana/Gavin Newsom Look-a-Like Contest! SF Supervisor and Mayoral Candidate Gavin Newsom, wearing his best pin stripe suit, joins the Sisters as

guest MC! Whether you love him or hate him, come out and see if this mayoral challenger can pull balls with Sister Betty! Gavin will be joined on stage by live musical guests, Skye Girls (www.skyegirls.com). Care for cash? This Sisters have lots of it! The player in the best Sister Dana or Gavin Newsom costume wins \$50 cash! Plus other prizes and give-aways! Valuable door prizes! Don't forget about our Great Bingo Virgin Toaster Drive! Bring a virgin and maybe you'll walk away with a new Dinosaurs Toaster! Info: www.BaDaBingo.org

#### Queer KPFA program planning @ New College

KPFA is going to have a queer themed regular program, and a group will be meeting on Nov. 6 to organize the show's production. Come help create queer public radio programming. Topics could include all areas of interest to queers, including Queer Health, Queers Arts, Queer Politics, Human Interest, etc. 7:30pm. New College of California, 776 Valencia St., room 11B. Info: Selwin Jones at 821-2916; selwyn-jones925@hotmail.com

#### amfAR benefit w/Patti Austin @ Four Seasons Hotel

Entertainer Patti Austin joins amfAR's "San Francisco Fall Dinner To Honor Community Leaders For Their Commitment To The Fight Against AIDS." The American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) is the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of AIDS research, prevention, treatment and advocacy. Since 1985, amfAR has invested nearly \$207 million in support for its programs and awarded grants to over 1,960 research teams worldwide. Honorees: Traci Des Jardins, The Right Reverend William E. Swing, and Walter Shorenstein. Cocktails, silent auction and gala dinner. Four Seasons Hotel, 757 Market St. Tickets start at \$250 and can be purchased from Peter Poulos at (415) 677-8688; email info@poulosbrothers.com

#### 'Execution of Justice' @ Presentation Theater, University of San Francisco

The USF Dept. of Visual and Performing Arts presents a student production of Execution of Justice, a play written by Emily Mann depicting the 1978 assassination of SF Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, the Trial of Dan White, and the riots that followed. Mann's play offers students an opportunity to learn of the assassinations directly from those who were present in the days following the City Hall murders. To prepare for the play, USF students interviewed reporters Mike Weiss and Barbara Taylor, who covered the trial; politicians such as Harry Britt, who assumed Milk's post as supervisor; Sister Boom Boom, who ran for supervisor in 1982 and is a character in the play; and witnesses from the trial. Professional actor Mark Rafael plays the role of defense attorney Douglas Schmidt. \$12 (\$8 w/USF ID). 7pm. Also on Nov. 8, 13-15, plus 2pm matinee Thu., Nov. 13. University of San Francisco campus, 2350 Turk St. (just west of Masonic). Tix/info: www.executionoffjustice.com

#### 'SMEGMA!' @ Eros

"SMEGMA!" — An old-school, finger-lickin' variety show hosted by Kirk Read in the lovely lobby of Club Eros, an otherwise all-male sex club. Tonight: all genders welcome! Featuring Alfonso, apocalyptic banjo, Rawlows T. Anpu, beats and rhymes, Reginald Lamar, of the Mutilated Mannequins, Mattilda aka Matt Bernstein Sycamore, author of "Pulling Taffy." Other: Thea Hillman and Storm Florez, a capella bluegrass, Amy Tobin, raising the roof song by song. \$5-\$10 sliding (door pays performers cuz performers deserve to be paid). 8pm sharp! 2051 Market Street at Church.

#### Matmos & 'Work Work Work' @ YBCA Galleries

Matmos, the amazing electronic music phenomenon comprised of queer geniuses M.C. Schmidt and Drew Daniel (they tour with Björk), give a live performance of their technological wizardry to kick off "Work Work Work," a two-week-long installation and residency in Gallery 1 as part of the Center's Four in a Row exhibition. Enjoy samples of amplified crayfish, helium tanks, and liposuction surgery, among other ambiguous sounds used by Matmos to create revelatory aural sensations. Free w/gallery admission (\$6 gen'l; \$3 senior/student). 6pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St). Info: yerbabuenaarts.org

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# Life cast in bronze

## Degas sculptures at the Legion of Honor

by Will Shank

**R**ightly known as the most superb painter of late-19th-century France, Edgar Degas (1834-1917) left behind in his studio at the time of his death an assortment of three-dimensional studies for some of his best-known paintings. These included approximately 150 wax and clay sculptures in various states of completion. His heirs decided to preserve 73 of the best examples of his sculptural work by casting them in bronze.

The 22 sets of authorized bronzes were eventually disseminated into museum collections worldwide, with the most complete sets, besides this one, ending up at the Met, the Musée d'Orsay, and at a museum in Copenhagen. The original wax and clay versions were rediscovered in a Paris foundry in the '50s and are now

part of the permanent collection of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, thanks to Paul Mellon. The set of bronzes at the Legion of Honor through Jan. 18 is on loan from the Museu de Arte de São Paulo, Brazil.

Does this public display of objects that were clearly intended as working tools amount to grave-robbing? Perhaps, although there is anecdotal evidence that the painter was in favor of the idea of bronze versions of his three-dimensional sketches.

The earlier sculptures, a gallery full of horses installed at the end of the Legion exhibition, date to the 1860s. These motion studies help him with the complex compositions of his paintings of this period, which frequently focused on race tracks and *la culture equestre* of Longchamp. The figural, almost exclusively female, works that form the bulk of the exhibition came later, in the early

1880s. There is general scholarly consensus that the artist did not use the clay and wax models as preparatory sketches, *per se*, for his paintings, but they relate to various periods in his work.

### Dancer watch

Degas' beloved dancers from the Paris Opéra are seen in various states of undress, and one of the great pleasures of viewing variations on a theme juxtaposed with one another is to have the chance to study the subtle differences between them, rather than the similarities. A nude ballerina or baller, balanced on one foot, examines the sole of the other foot, bending slightly forward, or slightly backward, in a series of three. Fingerprints and the pressure of thumbs are lovingly preserved in bronze, giving insight into the artist's energetic working method, which is largely an aspect of his creative process that is carefully disguised in his two-dimensional works.

The museum visitor is greeted by an icon of early modern art, Degas' "Little Dancer, Aged Fourteen," which was first shown at the sixth exhibition of Impressionist art in Paris (1881). It was something of a scandal at that time, perhaps because of its confrontational realism. Indeed, it is still a peculiar object, despite its familiarity, due to the use of actual fabric (the tutu, the braid in the bronze hair) which create a tactile contrast with the cold, hard metal surfaces of the little girl's flesh. It may have been the harsh critical reaction that kept Degas from ever



"Little Dancer, Aged Fourteen" by Edgar Degas: something of a scandal

publicly showing sculpture again.

The Legion's installation of the traveling exhibition is supplemented by works from the permanent collection of the Fine Arts Museums, as well as loans from local collectors. There is also a fascinating vitrine that explains, with models, the lost-wax process of

bronze casting, or "Bronze Sculpture for Dummies." ▼

**A surcharge of \$4 beyond the normal admission charge applies to Degas Sculptures.**  
Info: (415) 750-3600 or [legionofhonor.org](http://legionofhonor.org).

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## Film Arts Fest

### Arts cover

Even the weather is fetish-driven — Kuchar is a fan of Oklahoma's tornado alley — as several hot and hunky denizens are trapped in a lightning storm executed by a Woolworth's special-effects budget. Sexual impropriety leads to a flaming car wreck. In a nearby vehicle, a young man, about to lose his homo virginity, tells his seatmate, "Turn this car around. People may be dying back there," only to hear, "There are people dying up ahead, too." An uncult penis appears in the first 10 minutes. For the next 143, dear viewers, you are strictly on your own. (Roxie, 10/31, 11 p.m.)

**My So-Called Life** A superb showcase for talented local filmmakers' takes on teenage lust and angst. *Daydreamer* from Berkeley's Sam Fuller is a gem of a fantasy in which a teenage boy confronts his sweet tooth and his lust for another boy. Shot by shot, Fuller demonstrates a witty grasp of how out-of-kilter the world can suddenly appear to one in the thrall of desire. When actor Simon Trumble's eyes lock on co-star Benjamin Packard's mouth as the latter chews on a caramel candy, we get a startlingly specific definition of eye candy. We're drawn into a moment of physical and emotional anarchy whose truth means whatever it means to the dreamer, as well as being quite hilarious in its absurdity.

Castro resident Scott Boswell's *One Fine Morning* is that rare short that can recall with crystalline clarity a day in time (the first day of school, September 1988) when Adam (Kevin Mertz), a Smiths-addicted, lovesick teen,



From *Between You and Me*

finds out whether a song he wrote for lunchmate Matt (Jonathan Timmerman) has struck its intended chord. Mortified by his mother's shopping choices for his fall classroom debut, Adam is almost mortally wounded by Matt's casually dropped question, "Are you stalking me?"

John Dille's *Little Failures* chooses a more enigmatic twist on a casual encounter between skateboard punkish girl Olive (Kat Chong-Quigley) and a slab of shaggy-haired boy meat (David Enos) waiting for a bus. Shot in a distinctly non-SF-looking industrial corner of the city, *Little Failures* is painfully articulate about adolescent social autism.

Melissa Henry's *Between You and Me* is an acutely etched look at a Napa high school female friendship threatened by a first boy crush. Music is a character, including a girl-bonding flip of Loggins and Messina's "House at

Pooh Corner." (Roxie, 10/31)

**A Great Wonder** Filmmaker Kim Shelton manages to bridge a cultural chasm in her portrait of three orphans whose sudden relocation from the war-torn desert of their native Sudan to the bewildering customs of the Seattle rainforest offers poignant lessons in what it means to rescue a child.

While one foster family intuits what Martha has lost and how to make her a real member of their Partridge-like clan, another more anally attuned household provides cold comfort to a young Sudanese boy/man, including a brutal moment when his foster mom, acting more like a parole officer, yanks a phone from his hand. In a telling scene at the local police station, a good cop tries to convey what law and order means to an audience of Sudanese youth for whom government has previously stood for soldiers sent to murder their birth-families. (Castro, 11/2)

**Piki & Poko** Two hip local filmmakers, Mark Ewert and Steven Cutler, provide newly struck episodes of the "Adventures in Starland" of their spunky female animated duo that will appeal to fans of Japanese anime, pop-drenched fantasy and the debunking of whatever lingering reputation Martha Stewart may still possess. (Castro, 11/2)

**The Kidnapping of Ingrid Betancourt** A close friend recently pondered whether it would be safe or prudent for him to pay a visit to his mother's Colombian birthplace. This HBO doc about the 2002 abduction by leftist rebels of a prominent feminist senator and, at the time, presidential candidate, may provide a partial response. Filmed in a country whose drug-fueled civil war was

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## MUSIC

# Strung out on Bach

## Fugues and concertos out on new CDs

by Tim Pfaff

For all its other virtues, DG, the Yellow Label, has rarely excelled in Bach. Its two latest Bach releases hew to the pattern, although fans of the artists involved will snap up these CDs. The Emerson Quartet's new *Art of Fugue* and Hilary Hahn's new CD of Bach violin concertos both boast distinguished, thoughtful musicianship, but raise all over again the question that just won't go away: what instruments to use when playing Bach.

Having been through the instrument wars on one of its major battlefields, Berkeley, I have reached the point where, all other things being equal (the hitch: they never are), I'd rather hear music on instruments like the ones the composer might have known. With or without those, I prefer to listen to musicians who focus on matters of expression over mere sound quality. So, the idea of a modern-day string quartet such as the Emerson playing Bach on thoroughly modern instruments (the notes give dates of 1986 to 2002, plus one viola from 1796) doesn't bother me.

Sadly, the reality does. The Emerson has largely turned its back on the musical bounty of the performance-practice movement (arguably the greatest musical achievement of the last quarter-century) in favor of good, old-fashioned thinking man's music. Here, their playing is consistently



intelligent, rarely interesting, and never compelling. Considering that the score is one of the high-water marks of music, this is just not enough.

Even their few concessions to their more period-conscious counterparts seem misjudged. The Emersonians hone their sound to some simulacrum of Baroque sonority. But it smacks of an aesthetic compromise that serves no-one. There's an overarching aridity to it all, and the recording feels more like advanced musical thinking than in-

volving music-making. I keep sensing the players wanting to open out into the kind of sound they deploy for their masterful Beethoven and Shostakovich, but reining themselves in. What's sad is that even the most scholarly of the musicological purists would have told them that (particularly in Bach) if it don't got that swing, it don't mean a thing.

### Deep notes

Hilary Hahn's modern-instrument Bach, by contrast, is a marvel of technical mastery, strong feeling for style, and deep emotional resonance with the music. Her debut CD for Sony, an astoundingly precocious rendering of three of the solo sonatas and partitas, left even the purists smiling, and this debut CD on DG, featuring the Violin Concertos in E Major (BWV 1042) and A minor (BWV 1041), the Concerto for Two Violins (with Margaret Bajer) in D minor (BWV 1043) and the Concerto for Oboe (Allan



Vogel) and Violin (BWV 1060), confirms her as a front-rank Bach player. The only question it leaves is how much more Hahn could do with a more interesting band than the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra under its music director, Jeffrey Kahane. Kahane, whose first incarnation was as a pianist, has yet to convince me as a front-rank conductor. While the orchestral playing on this CD is consistently involved and snappy, it never comes within shouting distance of the vivid, acutely concentrated artistic personality Hahn evinces. While hardly dragging her down, it never quite lifts her up, either.

It hardly matters. This is a showcase for Hahn, and she never fails to disappoint. It defies description how a violinist whose technique and sound have so little in common with those of today's

top period-conscious violinists can seem so utterly right in Bach, yet she does. One explanation is that musicianship as exalted as Hahn's speaks for itself in pretty much any repertoire. Another is that, whatever she plays, her sound is so exquisite, energized and purposeful that its sheer conviction carries the day.

There's astoundingly little vibrato in her Bach playing, but the sound is so full of that spin that is the *sine qua non* of all great string-playing that it never sounds wan or restrained.

The most memorable movements here are the more emotionally complex, slow inner movements (the Adagio of BWV 1042 is a continuously unfolding wonder), but her musicianship is no less complete or absorbing in the more extroverted, musically athletic outer movements.

Her partner soloists in the two violin-plus concertos are fine but, again, not quite at her level. DG already owes her one. ▼

## Film Arts Fest

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given a dark fictional reading by native son Barbet Schroeder in his *Our Lady of the Assassins*, the story of one woman's fight against a corrupt political culture is both hopeful and, fitting to the region from which it springs, fatalistic. In a part of the world where a 12-year-old Little League baseball player can answer that his favorite book is Gabriel Garcia Marquez's novel *100 Years of Solitude*, maybe the existence of the film and its version of Ingrid Betancourt's story is as much hope as can be expected. (Castro, 11/2)

**Greendale** Whether you view this film (photographed by the singer Neil Young) as a 90-minute music video or an elegiac visual essay by an aging pop star, *Greendale* delivers a very personal experience, an oddly retro sensibility somewhere between Grandma Moses and "American Gothic." (Castro, 11/2)

**American Dancer** As fascinating in its aim as it is frustrating in its execution, this pop documentary gives us thin if entertaining snippets from the lives of four hetero male strippers from Tampa, Florida. Preconceived notions about their four stars by the filmmaking team of Adam Ballachev and Mark Consuelos (formerly of the ABC soap *All My Children*) prevent us from getting under the skin of these randy young men — except when they're shooting steroids.

The film's main drama comes from the clash of the characters' back-stories with the business plan of their leader, Robbie, a plumber-turned-erotic-dancer, turned-affluent-real-estate-broker. The in-

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"Darling daughter, you sound like a square from Squaresville."

Enchantress Angela Arden

"Why can't you accept that mother is a murderess and a tramp!"

Daddy's Little Girl

"You can't discard me like one of your false eyelashes!"

Tony the Gigolo

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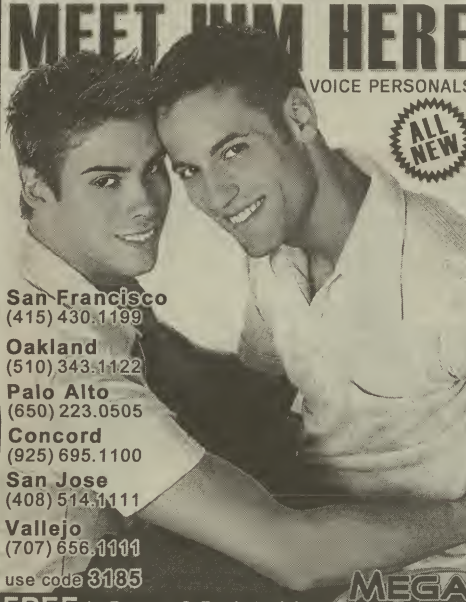




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## LEATHER SCENE



"Mama" Reinhardt poses with the two newest additions to her family. Left to right: #500, Hector Crawford, and #501, Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn ("Mama's Southern Comfort"), last Sunday, Oct. 26, at Daddy's Bar, a benefit for the Inter-Club Fund of San Francisco.

## 500th and 501st pinned

### 'Mama's Family' grows larger at Daddy's

by Mister Marcus

The crowd was spilling out onto the street outside Daddy's Bar last Sunday, Oct. 26, as hundreds of the faithful braved the 93° heat to welcome two more members to Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt's family. You would have thought the Cardinals of Rome had elected a new Pope.

There was lots of entertainment, raffles, short speeches and even a birthday celebration. Members of Mama's Family who have gone on to a better space were remembered. Various statistics about how many leather titlehold-

ers, how many drag queens, how many members of royal families, members from outside San Francisco, and other information were announced.

Leather titleholders were pressed into service to sell raffle tickets, and there were a lot of measurements from the floor to the crotch. You can't say you're a true member of Mama's family until you put out and put out big.

The bar was festooned with baby-pink and baby-blue balloons, and some folks had rattles, stuffed animals and other "baby" accouterments. It

was a benefit for the Inter-Club Fund, another agency which dispenses funds to the needy; and someone from that organization was actually on hand to receive the proceeds when it was all over.

After all the announcements, raffle drawings, and the shenanigans that go along with this sort of event, the 500th member of Mama's Family was announced. He is Hector Crawford, a faithful follower who has done his best to incorporate himself into fundraising events. He was greeted by Assemblyman Mark

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## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

#### Weekend Oct. 31-Nov. 2

In Amsterdam, it's the annual Playgrounds Weekend, with a leather dance on Friday night and a humpous rubber & leather fetish gathering. For info & tickets, click on [www.leatherpride.nl](http://www.leatherpride.nl).

Hartford Colts MC present the Mr. Connecticut Leather contest in New Haven, with a \$75 weekend fee for all activities. Queen Cougar will be the MC.

#### Friday, Oct. 31

San Franciscans MC Halloween beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 2000 to 2400 for \$7 at the Eagle Tavern. No other details at deadline.

Fetish & Fantasy Halloween Ball in San Jose at City Lights Theatre for \$25; tickets available at Leather Masters in San Jose, Stormy Leather in SoMa and at Rock Hard in the Disastro.

#### Saturday, Nov. 1

Regiment of Black & Tans (LA) salute the California B&B Corps on their 35th anniversary with a luncheon in the Oleander Room in Palm Springs. Tickets \$25. For info: [regiment@blackandtans.org](mailto:regiment@blackandtans.org) or call (714) 648-2110.

Dessert Auction by the ABW Family (Bill, Sheryl & Boy Jeff) at the Gauntlet II in Los Angeles, with a \$5 donation. From 2200 to Midnight.

#### Sunday, Nov. 2

Tony Koester is 40 today and celebrates at Daddy's with a party from 1600 to 2000, for \$7 beer/soda bust, entertainment, to benefit Project Open Hand. Bring canned food or toys for Mama's Toy Drive.

Bare Chest Calendar guys travel to Palm Springs, where they will autograph and sell the 2004 Calendar at the Barracks from 1500-1800; hosted by former Mr. SF Leather Troy Anicete.

#### Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 5-6

8th Anniversary celebration of Daddy's Bar both nights. Commemorative pins, Daddy of the Year, Employee of the Year, entertainment and all the usual hoopla at that bar.

#### Weekend Nov. 7-9

Rubber Blowout Weekend at the Cell Block Bar in Chicago when Mr. International Rubber will be chosen. Rubber Willie steps aside, and much partying à la rubber in the Windy City.

Mr. Palm Springs Leather Pride Week, with a Black & Blue Ball, Meet & Greet, formal leather dinner, Mr. Palm Springs Leather Contest and a victory brunch on Sunday. Click on: [www.mrp-sleather.com](http://www.mrp-sleather.com).

In Ottawa, Canada, Mr. Ottawa Leather will be chosen in a "Camelot" theme. The winner goes to Chicago next May to compete at IML. For info, email: [mlavigne@rogers.com](mailto:mlavigne@rogers.com).

In Fort Lauderdale, Mr. Florida Leather contest, produced by Mauro Montoya. For info: [www.MrFloridaLeather.com](http://www.MrFloridaLeather.com) or (954) 529-5794.

In San Jose, Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Leather contest with a Meet & Greet @ Renegades on Friday; contest on Saturday at Wave's Smokehouse & Saloon at 2100. For more info: [lance@twistedimage.com](mailto:lance@twistedimage.com).

#### Saturday, Nov. 8

Hoedown 2003 at the Galleria Design Center hosting the International Assn. of G/L CW Dance Clubs. Hundreds expected from around the world. Tickets \$30 in advance at Does Your Mother Know or at Sundance Saloon on Sundays. Click on [www.stomp-pede.com](http://www.stomp-pede.com). ▼



## POLKSTRASSE

## Meeow!

Walk the catwalk at Club RV tonight!

by Sweet Lips

Why wait forever in the crowds of the Castro? Be waited on in an intimate setting on the cozy catwalk of the Club Rendez-Vous, 1312 Polk St. (at Bush); phone 309-CLUB. You'll get the best view in the house for the festivities tonight, Thursday, October 30, starting at 9 p.m. when hot guys take part in Amateur Strip Night! Winners earn cash prizes of \$50, \$75, and \$100! These amateur strippers are great in more ways than one!

Have a Happy Halloween at Club RV with Cockatelia's TilFriday Drag Assault. Three shows! Call 309-CLUB for tickets by credit card.

And don't forget every Wednesday night at Club RV is karaoke night with Joshua, starting at 9 p.m. Come get those croaks out and exercise your vocal chords!

Happy birthday, David Kapp (Nov. 2) and Dennis Tyler (Nov. 12)! You're both great guys!

More Halloween parties will be taking place up and down Polk Street, including at the Cinch Saloon, in a bash hosted by Lucy Borden! There's a costume contest with prizes at Midnight. The Cinch is located at 1723 Polk St., between Washington and Clay.

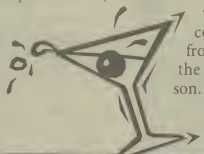
Call 776-4162.

The Cinch's Jim Manges now works Monday through Thursday from Noon till 7 p.m., so drop in and have some fun with him. And of course, on Saturdays from 4-7 p.m., they have the fabulous Matt Gibson. Check him out!

David Holcombe's Every Penny Counts project raised \$5,639 at the recent sale, and the memori-

al brick is now in place at the Circle of Friends in GG Park.

One final election note: When voting on Election Day, please cast your ballot for Kamala Harris. I think she'll make a great DA! ▼



Cocktail Hour

## Mister Marcus

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Leno, who presented him with a congratulatory parchment for his accomplishment.

Later, Mr. San Francisco Leather Julian Marshburn was named the 501st member ("Mama's Southern Comfort"), the whole bar sang "Happy Birthday," and a huge chocolate cake was served up. It was a grand evening, and everyone came away feeling good about it.

## Heat's on cross-country

From Ottawa to Chicago, from Palm Springs to San Jose and the Russian River, leather titles will be handed out during November. Mr. Palm Springs Leather, Mr.

Leather Ottawa, Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara Leather in San Jose, Mr. International Rubber in Chicago and Mr. North Coast Leather up at the Russian River will all be chosen the weekend of November 7-9.

They will all have a meet & greet, demonstrations, a leather competition and play parties, some with leather dances and most with victory brunches. On Thanksgiving weekend, the Toronto Leatherman contest will take place. This coming weekend is the Mr. Connecticut Leather competition in New Haven, with our own Queen Cougar emceeing. The IML 2004 roster seems to be growing hourly. And there's more coming. Should be fun in Chicago next May. I hoping you're planning to be there. ▼



That dashing Latin Jose Bermudez captured the Mr. Sawmill Leather title and advances to compete for the Mr. Florida Leather contest in Fort Lauderdale in November.

## Breaking Cycle

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wooden A. Martinez) dares to preach tolerance for those who prefer non-reproductive sex acts.

Director John Henry Davis and screenwriter William Mahone can't decide who these people are. Rachel is a giddy schoolgirl one minute and a stripteasing seductress the next. The young men of tortured sexuality don't earn much sympathy in 2003: Greenwich Village and Naked Boys Singing! are only a few miles away. The villain sports a mohawk while his scenes are shot in muted grays to symbolize — what? A parallel universe? When the script fails its

actors, which is every few seconds, some piece of music fills in where honest emotions fail. When a scumbag yells "faggot" to one of the stars, the soundtrack immediately offers a piano-and-flute ditty to let us know our hero feels really bad.

Did I mention that *Ordinary Sinner* is godawful dull? Scenes dawdle one after another, with still more mood music to convince us that something of portent is smelling up the DVD player. The script is so hackneyed you can recite lines before they're delivered. Apparently the filmmakers believe that if the characters say "fuck" and "fuckin'" often enough, the dialogue will sound natural.

*Ordinary Sinner* has the intel-

lectual gravity of a *TV Guide* crossword puzzle and the excitement that comes from dusting furniture. It takes hard-hitting subjects — homophobia, the church, hate crimes — and squashes them flat with a treatment too obvious for bumper stickers. The movie doesn't have the guts to suggest that gay-bashing has complex origins. It's so much easier to make the bad guy a cartoon creep and so absolve more subtle forms of institutional homophobia. The moral of *Ordinary Sinner*, flaccid and simple as it may be, is clear 10 minutes into the longest 93-minute movie on record. All that's left for another 83 minutes is the resolution of good intentions. wolfevideo.com ▼

## Film Arts Fest

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tended "star" of the piece is the self-parodying hulk, "Tarzan" Tarantino, who is seen attempting a self-defeating career shift to professional wrestling. The doc makes genuine points when it catches Robbie in some off-the-cuff racist remarks about former members of his troupe he thinks may have stolen clients from him. The glaring omission is the absence of any analysis into the obvious submerged homo links to these hulks dancing for the ladies. For them, the term introspection might mean a new brand of contact-lens cleaner. (Castro, 11/2)

**Little Roxie Documentaries**  
Set for Saturday (11/1), every hour on the half-hour at the new Little Roxie annex screening-room, two doors from the theatre, the high-

lights include a screening of Caveh Zahedi's work-in-progress on sex addiction. The screened portion is a rather droll depiction of a lesbian and a gay man trying for a kid the old-fashioned way (4:30 p.m.). Danish filmmaker Nikolai Ostergaard's *Timezones Explained by Light* is the delightfully circuitous tale of a failed hetero affair framed

by a fascinating exploration of what the nine hours' difference in time between San Francisco and Copenhagen really means (3:30 p.m.). Also, unscreened: *Butch Mystique*, stories of butch black lesbians (2:30 p.m.). ▼

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# Octogenarian orchestrations

Three symphonies from gay composer Ned Rorem, 80

by Jason Serinus

Ned Rorem: *Three Symphonies*; Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, José Serebrier (Naxos)

He has written 15 books, a good 300 art songs, and dozens of orchestral, chamber and choral works. Four years ago, he was elected President of the elite American Academy of Arts and Letters. Yet despite winning the 1976 Pulitzer Prize for his orchestral piece *Air Music*, earning renown as America's indisputable master of the vocal idiom, and enjoying the luxury of spending the last 40 years of his life writing music only on commission, New York/Nantucket-based composer Ned Rorem has until now seen his early symphonies largely ignored.

All that is changing. Following the October 23 celebration of his 80th birthday, America's foremost living gay composer can rejoice that his first three symphonies are finally available on a bargain-price disc.

In a recent phone conversation, Rorem pointed out that he has actually written four sym-

phonies. While the second and fourth were commissioned works, the other two were composed "for the hell of it."

Rorem wishes that his early symphonies had received good recordings 40 years ago. Nonetheless, he is pleased by the "very positive" reviews that have greeted his work. He also praises the recording itself, which, if not of demonstration quality, nonetheless presents a wonderfully atmospheric portrait of his music.

Though his three early symphonies more or less disappeared from view within a few years of their premiere (the Third Symphony fared best), Rorem's Fourth, *String Symphony*, received a happier reception. It was first performed by Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony, whose 1989 recording of the work, available on New World Records, won the Grammy Award for Best Orchestral Recording.

Although he has written program notes for many of his works, the sometimes contradictory Rorem remains reluctant to discuss his compositions. "I don't like to talk about my own music; I don't even like to read other com-

posers talking about their music, because I think the music states it better. God knows I never discuss my music aesthetically, because whatever there is to say about it is stated by the music itself."

## First thought

The First Symphony, which Rorem writes in the liner notes "could easily be called a suite," was composed between 1948-50. It received only a few performances before fading into relative obscurity. While there is no question that Rorem's unabashed tonality grew increasingly out of favor during the reign of serial supremacy, Serebrier's performance renders continued cold-shoulder treatment incomprehensible. Especially attractive is the final movement. With one of its themes taken from an Arab wedding tune Rorem heard on the radio while in Morocco, the music grows increasingly joyful and animated, with a finish that must have left the heady intellectuals of earlier decades desperate for multi-syllabic dismissals.

The Second Symphony, a 1956

commission by Nikolai Sokoloff, received the last of its few performances in 1959. Hopefully that will change. The pastoral quality of its lovely second movement reflects Rorem's excellence as a songwriter; the writing is as irresistible as the rollicking allegro that concludes the work.

Rorem's Third Symphony, composed in 1958, got off to a happy start. "When I showed it to Bernstein," Rorem told me, "he decided to program it." After a successful New York Philharmonic premiere in Carnegie Hall, performances were sporadic, perhaps the most recent being by André Previn and the Curtis Institute of Music Orchestra in Carnegie Hall in 2000. The work has also received two prior recordings: one by Maurice Abravanel and the Utah Symphony, released on CD in a 2001 VOX box of *American Orchestral Music*; the other of the Bernstein premiere recently made available in a large boxed collection of New York Philharmonic broadcasts of American music.

The Third is a wonderfully rewarding work, one that deserves

wide performance. Beginning with a big, mysterious opening Passacaglia, it transitions into a very attractive, jazzy second movement Allegro that was originally intended for two pianos. The Largo, Rorem's favorite movement of the symphony, is dreamy and somnambulist. The fourth movement Andante, intended as a farewell to France, impresses with colors reminiscent of Impressionist paintings of the French countryside at twilight. Wistful and lovely, its beautiful atmosphere lingers long in the memory. The same holds true for the final Allegro molto. With its castanets and snare drum, its bubbling woodwinds and dance-like lyricism, the movement grows to an affirming, joyous conclusion that will leave many listeners hitting "Repeat."

Rorem's 80th birthday, already honored by recent performances of his works in Rockville, MD and San Francisco, has hit full stride with late October performances in New York, Philadelphia, Texas and Munich. For information, see nedorem.com. ▼

# Safety in numbers

by Gregg Shapiro

Numbers are said to have magical powers. In the case of this review, numbers have musical powers, since numbers figure prominently in the names of most of the bands and CDs.

The sequencing of *Ultimate Broadway 2* (RCA Victor) is quite good. With the revival of *Gypsy* starring Bernadette Peters currently running on Broadway, it was wise to open with the "Overture" (performed by the London Cast Album Orchestra) from that legendary musical. Other songs from revivals on this compilation include "All That Jazz" (*Chicago*) sung by Bebe Neuwirth and Ann Reinking, "Time Warp" (*The Rocky Horror Picture Show*) featuring Raul Esparza, Daphne

Rubin-Vega and other cast members, "Cabaret" performed by Natasha Richardson and Alan Cumming, "Man of La Mancha" done by Brian Stokes Mitchell and Ernie Sabella, and "Oklahoma!" Current and recent Broadway shows represented here range from *The Full Monty* ("Breeze Off the River") and *Ragtime* ("Your Daddy's Son") to Tony Award-winners *Urinetown* ("Run, Freedom, Run") and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* ("Gimme, Gimme").

Aubergine 3 deserve snaps for the clever title of their album *In All Things Modulation* (Transistor). The chill-out vibe is strong and encompasses various influences ranging from Latin jazz, funk and deep house (take a listen to standout track "Spank Le Disco").

I took an instant liking to the Northern California quartet The Stratford 4 because they remind me of the late lamented Kitchens of Distinction. They effortlessly recreate KOD's melodic wall of shoe-gazing sound, beginning with opening track "Where the Ocean Meets the Eye," on their second full-length disc *Love & Distortion* (Jetset). The aptly-named platter serves up plenty of both.

Trance, dance, party in your pants — call it what you will, Dutch electronic outfit 4 Strings acts like a puppeteer operating a marionette, pulling strings to get you on your feet. Your legs, arms and head will move to their propulsive beats on *Believe* (Ultra/Spinnin'), 4 Strings' full-length debut disc. Club hit "Take Me Away (Into the Night)" takes you to a place where dancing is as necessary as breathing. Lead vocalist Vanessa gives you other reasons to believe on the uplifting "Fly Away," and the Giorgio Moroder-goes-Moroccan style of "Eastern Vibe."

## Full fathom five

If the blues rock of the single "Harder to Breathe" is the only thing you've heard from *Songs About Jane* (Octone/I), the debut

album by Maroon 5, you're not getting the complete picture. You'd be missing the slick pop funk of "This Love," the Red Hot Chili Pepper-flavored "She Will Be Loved," the sewn-up blue-eyed soul of "Must Get Out," "Sunday Morning's" Jamiroquai-like jam, and the bittersweet parting of "The Sweetest Goodbye." Rising from the ashes of their former band Kara's Flowers, Maroon 5 sounds as if they are committed to their current configuration. You can almost count on it.

When Electric Six whips up their scorching metal disco on *Fire* (Beggars Group/XL), it's hard not to seek out a mirror-ball. They give the dancing orders on "Dance Commander" ("It would be awesome if we could dance"), and before you know it you're moving your feet to the beat. Things get hot, scorching actually, on "Electric Demons," and desire goes to the disco on "Danger! High Voltage." "Improper dancing in the middle of the street" is the order of the day on "Improper Dancing," but there's nothing improper about "Gay Bar," which is easily the most unusual cut on the disc. The blow-up which Electric Six hint at in "Gay Bar" gets launched on "Nuclear War," and the beats continue to rock on "I'm the Bomb" and "Synthesizer."

The band once known as Twelve Caesars returns with a shortened name, Caesars, on *39 Minutes of Bliss* (In an Otherwise Meaningless World) (Astralwerks). Short but not so sweet, garage-punk tunes populate the disc, proving that the Swedish garage which the Hives peeled out of also has space for other bands to park. Hail the Caesars for the narcotics list of "Sort it Out," the semi-romantic "Let's Go Parking, Baby," the punk speed of "You're My Favorite," and the straight-ahead Swedish garage-rock edge (check out the organ!) on songs like "Jerk It Out."

The 88 create a country-glam sound on *Kind of Light* (EMK/Mootron), the band's debut album. ▼



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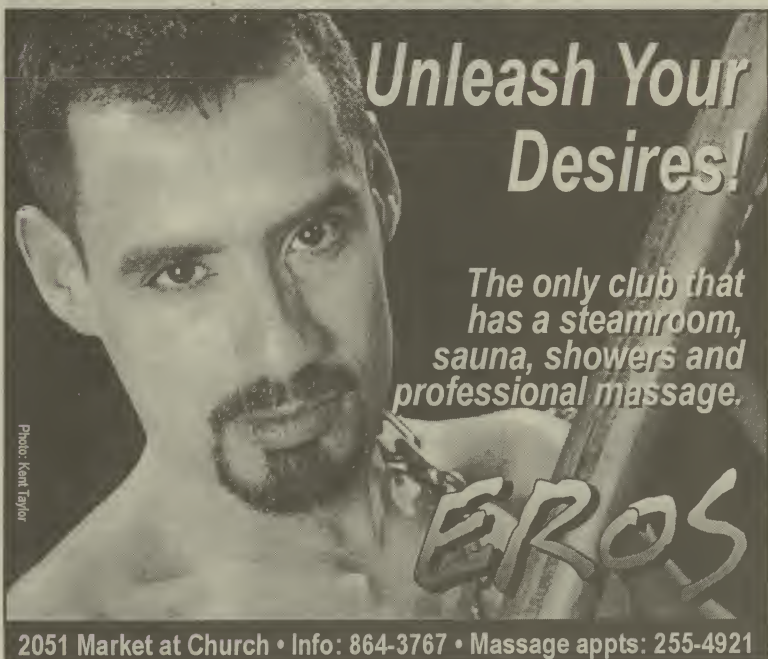
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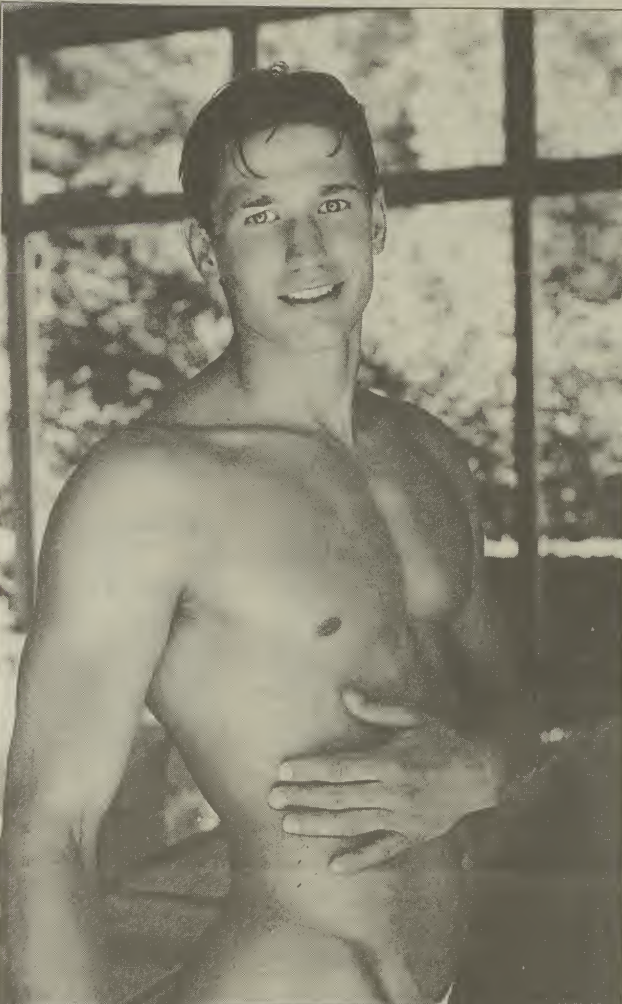
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# BAR TALK



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You can purchase time on our system by calling 1-800-321-6845 and requesting a 10, 20, 30, or 60 minute Block of Time™ with discounts of up to 20%. The cost is \$1.99 per minute and you may use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express card. You will be able to respond, browse, and retrieve messages by using your Block of Time™ account from any touch-tone phone!

## PARTING GLANCES

**Folsom Gulch Sat 9-27 2:30 PM**  
You very handsome, dark hair, slim, smooth, uncut young man in left rear booth. Me older man who sucked you. Very nice. Would like to do it again. **72839**

**9/20/03 Grupo Hispano**  
We talked about bathroom waterfall, broken cabinet and lying poorly. You said communication is a good way to know someone. I want to communicate with you. **72840**

**Badlands After Folsom St Fair**  
Sorta danced together. Me: brown, lit, orange Adidas. You: blondish, white shirt, jeans, cute dancer. You said date. Gave my number. May have been wrong or illegible. Still want date! L. **72849**

**Sausage Factory Sat 9/27 5:30pm**  
You flirted and smiled at me several times. I wore a black "Hairspray" t-shirt. You had short hair, wore glasses, and had a tattoo on your neck. Let's talk. **72850**

**You - Kent State Sweatshirt**  
Me, Green outback hat. We exchanged smiles on MUNI leaving Castro St. Fair. Again as I turned exiting up Civic Center escalator. Wished I'd said Hi. Let's meet. **72858**

**DAVIES MEDICAL CENTER**  
**TUESDAY 10/14, 9am** You: Walking to level A. Me: Carrying shirt on hanger. I liked your smile and friendly conversation. Coffee? **72865**

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Hot Top 40**  
5'10", 165, bl, bl, bottom, professional, travel, plowhouse, seeks younger hot bottom- honest & sincere for ongoing play or more; no messes please, Upper Haight. **72841**

**Squirrel Seeking Nuts**  
4 the winter, 31yr old Latino 5'8", 170 good build blk hr, brn eyes. Available 4 Caucasian men, 25-35 yr old for fun intimate encounters. **72842**

**Crazy For Blond!!**  
Brazilian, light skin, 37yrs, 5'7", 145lbs nice body dick a plus. Single, no drugs, clean hygiene. Seeking WM under 50 round butt and lovely. To be mine forever and I will be only for you. **72843**

**Cute Young European**  
Is looking for other intelligent European or American under 40y.o. with sense of humor to share great sex and life together. You won't be disappointed! **72844**

**GWM Couple Seeks Asian Guy**  
GWM couple, 38/43, seeking special GAM, 30's, for romance and relationship. Enjoy books, music, movies, theatre, dancing, long walks, lazy Sundays, candlelight, cuddling...and great threeway sex! We/you: honest, versatile, HIV-. **72845**

**Peninsula, South Or East Bay**  
Masculine WM 44 with defined chest, 31 waist, and nice sausage, seeks another lean bodied masculine guy 20 to 40's for on going friendship, fun activities, and naked intimacy. **72851**

**SF/Wine Country Living**  
GWM 49 ht/wt prop mil buzz/clean shn HIV- SF wkdays wine ctr/home w/ends lkg for GM to enj both. **72852**

**Looking to Connect and More**  
6', 168# Lean men in SF. Well Hung, conservative, HIV-. Like lots of body contact, movies, jazz. In my late 40's. You are 35-55 and in good shape. **72857**

**Nice Looking Latin**  
40 yrs old 5'8", 153lbs, medium athletic body. Bottom. Husky, nice looking. Seeking GWM or GLM, 30 to 40 yrs old. No drugs, light drinking ok, no smoking. Slim +. For dating. **72859**

**GJM 50 Near Lake Merritt**  
seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc.. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspective in my life. **72860**

**To Share Great Times!**  
Attractive Hispanic Male 44. Masculine Muscular iso Friend to hang out with. My interests are the gym, movies, sports. Live in Concord. **72866**

**Asian**  
Young looking, caring GAM, mid 50s, slim, is looking for an older GWM for relationship. We enjoy gardening, quiet time, travelling, cooking. No smoking **72867**

**Muscular Caucasian 46yrs**  
Seeks Asian to date on reg basis. Possible long term relationship. Please be serious, smooth, fit. 25-50 yrs. No games BS. **72868**

**Seeking Friendship**  
GJM near Lake Merritt seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, baseball, drinking etc. Not a sex ad. Age race, size, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspective in my life. **72869**

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

**"Naughty Young Euro Boy**  
With round tight bubble butt is looking for a group of tops (2 or more) to be used as a submissive, bottom. Limits can and must be stretched. Under 40 only. **72846**

**Hot Puerto Rican 11"180lbs Hung**  
I like to fuck guys in ages 18yrs and 26 yrs and or massage, have car will travel enjoy playing what couples call anytime day and nights in-out. **72853**

**Naked Massage**  
Free sensual full body experience for masculine guys up to age 45 with tight trim waistlines by another trim waisted naked masculine guy. **72873**

**Three Way Sex**  
Two men want fun friendly safe sex w/ hung white or Latin Men 25-45. Kickback, hot tub, massage or great sex. Let us make your fantasy cum true. Antloch. **72871**

**Older Big Black Top Wanted**  
PoZ healthy Blk/Wht couple seeks top to use submissive wht. bottom. 5'8", 145#. Plow his ass and chest. Possible watersports. Not a leather ad. **72872**

**XXX-Large Dick Wanted**  
I never had a real large dick in my ass. I want to know what it feels like. Any race or age just be x-big. **72861**

**Rim Chair Service**  
I want to eat your butt big time. Bring it to me kissing sweet. **72875**

**Passionately Hungry Bottom**  
39yo, HIV+ GWM, 6'1", 175lb, Brn, Hzi seeking hot sensitive top, brn eyes 40-50. Let's hook up and take pleasure to a new level. Mutual cuddling, kissing, lots of foreplay. **72862**

**Hairy Butt and Stinky Feet**  
Wanted by masculine dude. Into oral servicing ripe pits, feet and hairy butts. Seeking hairy dude to stroke with kick back, sniff, fool around with my pole. Me: 32yr, 5'10", 165#, BLK **72870**

**Do You have Huge Nipples?**  
Then I'd like to meet you. I love to suck, lick and service your huge, long, thick, nipples. Only 1" or longer please **72874**

## FETISHES

**Captain Emeritus/ US Olympic**  
cock sucking Team! Need I say more? OK treat your dick, uncut a plus, to this world class difference! **72878**

**Young Hot Euroboy For Training**  
Very cute boy with deep throat and tight ass wants to be trained into total submissive by a hot master under 40. I am open for any type of training. You won't be disappointed. **72847**

**Cigars Tattoos Pretty Boys Fun**  
Me: HM, 55, ISO pretty boys (18-21 only) 69, suck/fuck, tight-asses. No drugs. Pluses: cigar smoker, have tattoos, 69/69. S **72848**

**Shaved Crotch And Pits**  
Seeking guys into smooth and shaved tall & lanky top 50's HIV- who loves attention then plows you. **72854**

**Underwear Club!**  
Exchange, model, worship, shop, sniff: Briefs, boxers, boxer-briefs, and jocks, thongs, C-and-B Gear. You and me: Well built, size M or S, into sucking and j/o. Skivvies drawer inspection! **72855**

**ISO Serious Nipple Workout**  
Buddy. 48 yo, GWM 220# stocky serious nipple pig w huge erect nipples, Brn/brn, salt&pepper goatee. Tatts, piercings smoker iso serious masculine, muscular dom. nipple workout buddy for serious nipple play!! Smoke A+ Please call. **72863**

**Stroking for Hours**  
Seeking masculine/average guy for heavy, intense JO, dirty talk, cock worship. Drinking, partying bud desired. Some oral ok. Your place pm only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes only. **72864**

**Does Nip Work Drive You Crazy?**  
This nip pig wants some mutual nip action with similar type guy. I am built, hairy, mature, tall, masculine with nice nips. Pluses are tight body, hairy chest, po2, and 40-50 yrs. old. Looking for single SF men only. Beginners or experienced. **72876**

**I'd be Fucking Honored**  
to suck you all the way off, uncut a plus, to see if my world class techniques out do averages 3 spurts to hit jackpot at 5, 6 spurts. **72877**

## OTHERS

**Deep Muscle Masseur Seeks Others**  
For trade or hire, 10yrs experience SF:SD P-town. Male, 40, bl, bl, great shape, great work- you be too... **72856**

Play safe. Wear a condom. **SAFE**

# BAR TALK

## PERSONALS ARE FREE!

- CATEGORY**
- Parting Glances ☐
  - Seeking Relationship ☐
  - Seeking Adventure ☐
  - Lesbian ☐
  - Fetishes ☐
  - Couples ☐
  - Others ☐

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name	Daytime Telephone
Address	Evening Telephone
City	State Zip

Headline, 30 characters maximum
Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

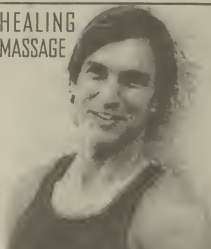
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# BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

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FULL BODY/FULL PLEASURE  
BY FRED OR BUTCHY  
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### 26Y/O ASIAN

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Erotic nude Mas by mature in-shape  
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Gives good deep Swedish!  
Masc, hairy, 195, 5'11", 45, moust.  
M-F aft 5, w/o OK-Rix-Table/Oil  
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### HOT ASIAN MASSAGE

Excellent full body Swedish/sensual  
nice smooth in-shape 5'9", 150 (415)  
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Friendly, gdlking CMT 5'6", 130,  
warm hands, sensual touch, full body,  
real massage. In/Out. 994-3115

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5'9" 145Lbs. 30wst fit Slim/Smooth  
Blond/Brn eyes. SF/Marin. In/Out.  
Have table.

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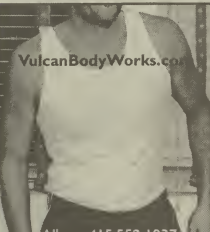


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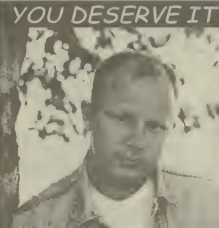
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10<sup>am</sup> - 8<sup>pm</sup>  
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626-  
1137



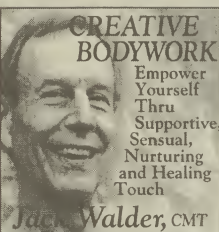
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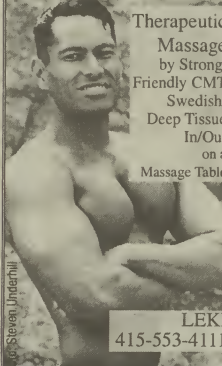
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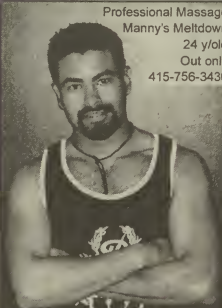


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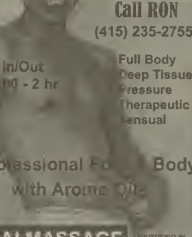
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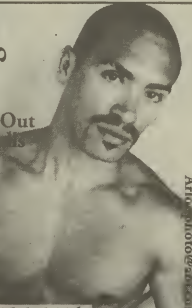
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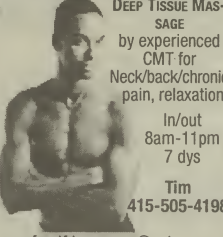
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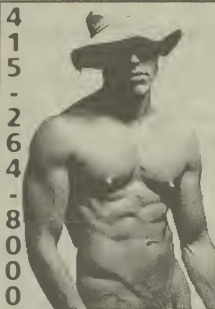
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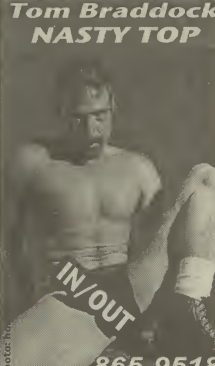
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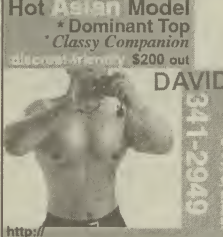
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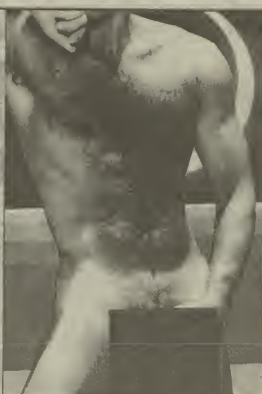
**TOP  
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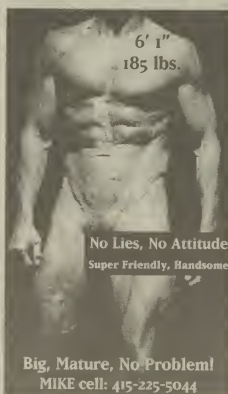
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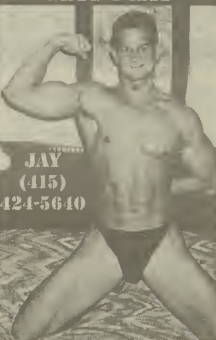
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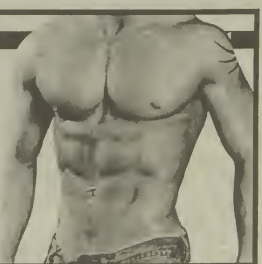
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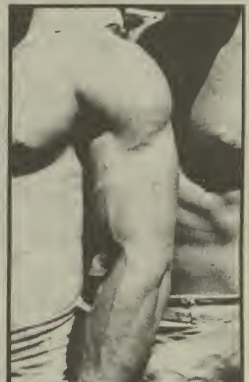
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